

Hafa Adai!

Man, 65, pleads guilty to sex abuse of minor. **PAGE 3**

'CPA not liable to pay share of Luta's custodial fees' **PAGE 6**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 28

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2017

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Be vigilant against skimmers!

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The public is being advised to be vigilant when withdrawing money from automated teller machines, or ATMs, in the wake of reports that some ATM machines in the Commonwealth have fallen victim anew to skimming devices.

Some First Hawaiian Bank's ATMs were reportedly again compromised.

In April last year, FHB was a victim of skimming; the device was found in two of their ATM terminals on Saipan.

In the same month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation apprehended Xiaolin Yang after he was allegedly found in possession of ATM skimming devices. Yang has been deported and is also on supervised release for one year.

FHB vice president and public relations manager Susan Kam Yokoyama, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said they were aware of ongoing police investigation of some ATM skimming devices that were again found on Saipan.

The Department of Public Safety, when asked by *Saipan Tribune*, said they had

See **SKIMMERS** on **Page 4**

FINALLY!

Workers dig for the Department of Public Work's \$216,411 Chalan Kanoa Drainage Improvement Project at the intersection of Texas Road and Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Chalan Kanoa. Radio-com got the contract for the project that is expected to solve the perennial flooding in the area.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



DPL audit raises red flags at House

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Lands Trust has raised concerns about the most recent audit of the Department of Public Lands covering fiscal years

2014 and 2015, saying they are again qualified "for basically the same findings as in previous years since 2010." That means problems or discrepancies identified since 2010 remain on the books and have not been resolved.

A copy of a letter by Marianas Public Lands Trust chair Martin B. Ada to Department of Public Lands Secretary Marianne C. Teregeyo on the audit results has been tagged as Department and Agency

See **DPL** on **Page 4**

OAG sues M/V *Luta* owners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government is suing the owners of cargo ship M/V

Luta for allegedly refusing to

return the \$400,000 in public funds that was loaned to them for the vessel's operations.

The government, through the Office of the Attorney General, is suing Luta

Mermaid LLC and its managers/shareholders Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, and Fidel Mendiola Jr. for unjust enrichment, conversion, and other claims.

See **OAG** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



NATION

President Donald Trump's travel ban faced its toughest test yet.

PAGE 16



ASIA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte berates more than 200 policemen.

PAGE 17



WORLD

Airstrikes on a rebel-held city in Syria kill at least 15 people.

PAGE 18



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Torres to address the Commonwealth

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will be making his first State of the Commonwealth address on March 31.

This will also be the first State of the Commonwealth address in more than two years. The late governor Eloy S. Inos delivered his first State of the Commonwealth address on June 30, 2014, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-

Purpose Center, 16 months after assuming the post.

Inos became the governor after then-governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned after being impeached by the House of Representatives and a likely conviction in an impeachment trial by the Senate.

Torres has asked House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan

(R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) to hold a joint session of the 20th CNMI Legislature.

"As we look ahead to the prospects of this year, we have an opportunity to further advance the goals and interests of the Commonwealth. We all share in the spirit of presenting solutions that address the

critical issues affecting our people," Torres said in his letter addressed to both leaders of the Legislature.

"With that being said, I am requesting for a joint session of the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature on March 31, so that I may deliver my State of the Commonwealth address." (Jon Perez)

Over 100 learn specialized training on gaming/casino industry, other topics



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI, talks about the ongoing law enforcement sensitivity training before participants as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres listens at the U.S. Attorney's Office conference room yesterday. Also in the photo at extreme right is one of the trainers, James Taylor, who is the deputy chief of the special investigation and support services section of the Nevada Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 100 persons, including members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, are participating in a week-long training at the U.S. Attorney's Office's in Garapan. The training's topics include regulatory compliance and criminal investigations and enforcement in the gaming/casino industry.

The training, which kicked off on Monday, is being conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Mariana Regional Fusion Center, and Nevada State Gaming Control Board. The U.S. Attorney's Office is sponsoring the training.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI, told participants yesterday that she informed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres a few months ago that federal partners want to support local stakeholders who are interested in having specialized training on investi-

gations and enforcement in the gaming industry and in national security intelligence gathering.

"So this is our contribution," said Limtiaco.

She noted that the Commonwealth Casino Commission "is here in full force."

Limtiaco acknowledged participants from the CNMI Customs, Fire Department, Casino Commission, Department of Labor Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Finance's Division of Tax and Revenue, Saipan and Rota Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, FBI, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Auditor, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, and the U.S. Attorney's office.

Guam's local and federal counterparts also joined the training via video-conference.

Torres, who delivered brief remarks yesterday, said it's a rare opportunity for the CNMI, especially with this kind of specialized training.

"When you go out there, make sure that you practice

what you learn out here and work with each other," said the governor.

One of the trainers yesterday was James Taylor, the deputy chief of the special investigation and support services section of the Nevada Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division.

Limtiaco said that Taylor's topics will be specific to the casino industry. In an interview later, Limtiaco said this particular training is focused on topics that are specialized within the casino industry.

She said they have also a national security-related training.

"We are looking at areas involving everything pertaining to the Bank Secrecy Act, money laundering, financial crimes, national security, looking at overview of gaming regulations, organized criminal activity, and a host of other topics that will be shared with the attendees in an effort to increase their knowledge, their experience and skills," she said.

Limtiaco said the training will teach participants how to

effectively conduct their goals, responsibilities and duties.

"It is also our efforts to work as partners at both local and federal government levels. We are very pleased with the attendance," she said.

Limtiaco pointed out that law enforcement and regulatory agencies from both local and federal levels are coming together, collaborating with each other so that they can share information and be better equipped.

Torres said that gaming is one of new activities in the CNMI and that no one on the island has experience in the industry.

With this training, Torres believes that employees in the law enforcement as well as the casino commissioners are able now to identify certain activities and are more aware as to what kind of activities constitute a violation of regulations.

"Having the presenters from off-island who are very much qualified come here gives us the opportunity to know what to look for and how to do our work better," Torres said.

Borja to push for local entrepreneurship

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority, the government agency tasked with encouraging investments in the Commonwealth, has several programs for those interested in becoming entrepreneurs.

And if confirmed by the Senate to the CDA board, Frank Lee San Nicolas Borja wants to encourage the public to avail of CDA's programs. His aim? To promote and encourage local entrepreneurship.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres nominated Borja to fill one of CDA's board member post representing Tinian. The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), held his confirmation hearing yesterday on Capital Hill.

Borja, once confirmed, said he would encourage members of the community to become local entrepreneurs, a move that could also help the economy and provide assistance to other investors.

"I'm a big supporter of local entrepreneurship. And this is definitely what I would focus on if I'm confirmed. We need to build the local capacity of being entrepre-

neurs. I know a lot of people here in our community who has that capability and we will definitely reach out to them once given the opportunity to serve at CDA," said Borja.

He added that entrepreneurs have the opportunity to assist other businesses that are investing in the CNMI. "It would be a big help to the CNMI economy. ... Definitely I would work with the municipality, the delegation, and the CDA's current board members and management to see on how we could further improve Tinian."

Borja said he would also focus on how to inform and reach out to the community once he is given the chance to serve on the board. "The issue that was raised here was how to reach out to the local community. Some of the loan programs are readily available for the public, especially for local entrepreneurs."

"Once confirmed, that is definitely what I would be looking forward to, to reach out to the public using my local capacity and encourage them to be entrepreneurs to help stimulate the local economy."

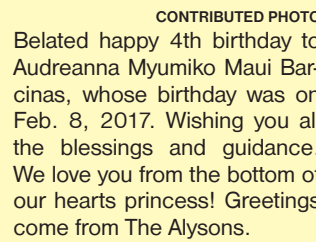
Borja is a former intern at the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and holds a master's degree in public administration.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy February birthday celebrants! Belated happy birthday to Alyvia, who had hers on Feb 6! And advance happy birthday to Shane, who will celebrate on Feb. 12 and will turn 26 years old! Happy birthday to Madison, who will have her special day on Feb 22! May your day be filled with joy and happiness! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 4th birthday to Audreanna Myumiko Maui Barchinas, whose birthday was on Feb. 8, 2017. Wishing you all the blessings and guidance. We love you from the bottom of our hearts princess! Greetings come from The Alysons.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Dreama Palacios who is celebrating her birthday today, Feb. 9, 2017. Wishing many more blessing your way and may God continue to guide and protect you. We love you! Greetings come from you family.

Joint effort eyed to ease SIA lines

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is working with government agencies to help ease the long immigration lines that tourists go through when coming in to the CNMI. CPA executive director Chris Tenorio stated yesterday that CPA, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Governor's Office, are joining efforts to ease the wait-times of tourists as they pass through immigration.

Tenorio disclosed that CPA is looking into installing chairs and other amenities as tourists line up for the Customs and Border Protection screening at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport.

"[We] are looking at installing additional furniture, maybe televisions, water dispensers, and also a small playground for kids to try and distract them," said Tenorio.

"We are in the process of procuring the chairs. MVA and the Governor's Office are working on getting water dispensers and TV monitors up there," he added.

According to Tenorio, MVA would provide five water dispensers outside the CBP area. Two TV's and additional chairs are also being discussed.

How may we assist you?

That is a question guests are frequently asked when calling Hyatt Regency Saipan. It signifies the hotel's desire to provide authentic hospitality and find ways to "assist" guests in making their Hyatt experience a memorable one.

Hyatt Regency Saipan echoes the very same question to all non-profit organizations on the island: "How may we assist you?"

Through its corporate responsibility platform Hyatt Thrive, Hyatt Regency Saipan will host the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic. This annual event is a vehicle to raise funds on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and another local non-profit organization of our choosing.

The organization must be active within one of the four pillars of Hyatt Thrive: environmental sustainability, economic development and investment, education and career readiness, and health and wellness.

Last year, the Hyatt Regency Saipan 20th Annual Charity Golf Classic raised over \$50,000. The beneficiaries were the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

So, how may we assist you? Here's how to apply:

The non-profit organization must write a letter stating how it helps (or can help)

Tenorio said the number of chairs would still be decided.

"It is a complicated issue," Tenorio said. "We are trying to accommodate the inbound passengers."

Complaints about the long wait-lines at the CBP area say that waiting sometimes reaches up to 3-4 hours on specific days and times of the week.

MVA, along with the Governor's Office, airline companies, travel and tour agencies, and others agree that the long lines are detrimental to the tourism industry, the bread and butter of the CNMI.

In an earlier interview, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said the long lines tend to paint Saipan as a "less competitive" destination compared to other areas in the Asia-Pacific.

Multiple factors are cited for causing the long lines, one of which is the high amount of visitors.

Chinese and Korean tourists comprised more than 81 percent of CNMI visitors in fiscal year 2016 and 2017. The last time the total number of tourist arrivals reached the 500,000-mark was more than a decade ago, when Japan was still the strongest tourist market of the CNMI.

"Something must be done before it's too late," Concepcion had said.

make the local community a place where employees want to work, guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live and investors want to invest.

The letter must also state how partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan can help in advancing its mission, vision and goals (with all these stated). The organization must also be active within one of Hyatt Thrive's four pillars. For more information visit thrive.hyatt.com.

Submit your non-profit organization's information pack and address it to the following contact details:

Josephine Mesta
Director of Human Resources

Hyatt Regency Saipan
PO Box 5087 CHRB Saipan
MP 96950

The selection of the non-profit organization will be decided based on the votes cast by the executive committee members of the hotel. The information pack must be submitted on or before Friday, Feb. 20 2017.

Hyatt Regency Saipan, a 321-room hotel, is located in Garapan, Saipan. It features 14 acres of lush tropical gardens, with lagoons and Micro Beach. Reservations for Hyatt Regency Saipan can be made by calling (670) 234-1234 or by visiting saipan.regency.hyatt.com. (PR)

Man, 65, pleads guilty to sex abuse of minor

A 65-year-old retiree who is accused of sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl on Rota several times pleaded guilty yesterday.

Manases Masga Manglona Sr., through assistant public defender Tillman Clark, entered an open plea yesterday—which only means that he has no written plea agreement with the government.

He did plead guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate

Judge Joseph N. Camacho set Manglona's sentencing on July 5, 2017.

A bench trial that was supposed to take place on March 13, 2017, at the Rota Superior Court was vacated.

On Sept. 13, 2016, the Office of the Attorney General charged Manglona with disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 31 years and six months in prison.

On Dec. 14, 2016, the OAG filed amended the charges to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The offenses carry a maximum sentence of 16 years and six months prison term.

Yesterday, the OAG again amended the charges to sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace. The offenses carry a maximum prison sentence of five years and six months.

Manglona has one prior criminal case, which was

filed in 1981, for assault and battery.

Last Dec. 28, Camacho rejected the government's plea deal offer, finding it too lenient. It recommended a five-year prison term for Manglona.

The Department of Public Safety Central received a call last Sept. 6 from a school principal on Rota about a sexual abuse case. The girl allegedly told a teacher that Manglona has been sexually abusing her and that she wants it to stop. (Ferdie de la Torre)

LOVE TO SAVE

SALES EVENT

Enjoy these Sweet Valentines Deals!

5 PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

2017 ACCENT

- Fuel-efficient 4-cyl. Engine
- Automatic Transmission
- Keyless Entry
- USB, Bluetooth
- 6 Airbags
- 4-Wheel ABS

STARTING AT \$16,995

36 MPG



ONLY \$121 PER PAYCHECK*

With the purchase of any new HYUNDAI WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

HYUNDAI

2017 TUCSON

- Fuel-efficient 4-cyl. Engine
- Automatic Transmission
- Keyless Entry
- Back-up Camera & Monitor
- USB, Bluetooth
- 6 Airbags
- 4-Wheel ABS

STARTING AT \$23,995

30 MPG



ONLY \$170 PER PAYCHECK*

Saipan's Best Warranty
10-Year/100,000-Mile Limited Powertrain Warranty

Customers First



TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051
WWW.CARSSAIPAN.COM

Like us on **facebook**
Triple J Motors, Saipan

*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500. While supplies last. Accent total price is \$16,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$262.22 or \$121 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$15,733.20. Tucson GL total price is \$23,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$370.22 or \$170 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$22,213.20.

DPL

From Page 1

Communication 20-2.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) has asked House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) to refer the letter to the Ways and Means Committee, headed by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Copies of the letter were also given to the office of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, House Speaker Demapan, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), CNMI Public Auditor Michael Pai, and the MPLT trustees.

In the letter, Ada said the MPLT trustees have already reviewed DPL's fiscal years 2014 and 2015 financial statements and the independent auditors report as well as the independent auditors' report on internal control.

DPL, in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, was at the time under former DPL secretary Pedro A. Tenorio.

"This year's audit report is once again qualified for basically the same findings as in previous years since 2010. MPLT is deeply concerned about the continued qualified opinions for this audit and past audits," said Ada.

The bases for the auditors' qualified opinion are as follows:

a.) Unable to determine the propriety of the amount

due to the CNMI in the amount of \$1,752,420. The amount includes an accrual of \$581,669 for reimbursement of land compensation payments, which is not an allowable "expenses of administration." Such accrual is inappropriate and should have been reversed. This would reduce this liability and accordingly increase the amount due to and distributed to MPLT in 2009 or 2010.

The balance of this liability in the amount of \$1,170,751 is unsubstantiated as the details are apparently unknown. This makes the recording of this liability questionable. This account should be reconciled and adjusted accordingly. Adjustment of this liability would increase the amount due to MPLT.

Between March 2009 and November 2010, DPL reimbursed the CNMI for land compensation payments in the amount of \$1,395,459. This is an unauthorized payment and should be paid back to DPL. Since DPL made an improper payment, it should seek to have this amount returned to DPL by whatever means is available for distribution to MPLT.

b.) Unable to determine the propriety for the reservation of fund balance in the amount of \$4,467,773.

Reservation of the fund balance is only allowed by an external commitment of the balance to future expenditures such as legal commit-

ments, constitutional mandates, remaining unexpired budget appropriations, etc.

DPL's policy is to base its accrual of its annual distribution to MPLT on its "unreserved fund balance."

Ada said the policy of fund balance reservation does not agree with the Constitution. "It clearly states that only fiscal year 'expenses of administration and management, land surveying, homestead development, and any other expenses reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of its functions' may be deducted from the [fiscal year] revenues and that the net amount should be distributed to MPLT after the end of the fiscal year."

The MPLT chair also cited that in fiscal year 2010 DPL transferred \$2.5 million to the CNMI due to a state of emergency. The payment, however, reduced the amount that should have been distributed to MPLT from previous years and is not in accordance with the Constitution.

"Since DPL made the improper payment, we believe they should seek reimbursement by whatever means is available, and subsequently transfer such funds to MPLT," Ada said.

He added that DPL also directly disbursed \$2,002,146 to the NMI Retirement Fund for the period of June 2010 and September 2014.

"This issue has been ongoing and not resolved and is a potential misuse of funds

that should have been resolved. DPL should investigate this issue in order to determine if such funds may be due back to DPL for transfer to MPLT," said Ada.

Some of the overview findings based on the auditors' report on internal control and compliance found out that DPL has not maintained a separate general ledger system since fiscal year 2017.

Ada mentioned other findings on his letter and said it would be proper to discuss the issues with Teregeyo and DPL's other key personnel.

"It would appear that collectively there could be errors and misstatements of revenues and expense that potentially may understate the amount due to MPLT. We appreciate an opportunity to discuss our comments and analyses with you."

MPLT concerns

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the letter identified some areas within DPL that could be addressed and is relevant to the House Ways and Means Committee. He added that all these could be addressed as they begin the budget process for fiscal year 2018.

"There are areas where funding was earmarked on the reimbursement of land compensation to distribute \$581,000. Also, there was over a million dollars unsubstantiated. These details need to be addressed in the early budget process," said

Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero said it may be a little late for MPLT to raise the issue since it is now 2017 but what the agency identified are serious. "These are serious issues regarding DPL. At that time, DPL had some funding...to pay for land compensation. But DPL did not pay it, so where did the money go? Another one is, there's over a million dollars and they did not release it. They did not specify how it was used. It could have gone to MPLT. MPLT is just raising it to us."

He said the Ways and Means Committee should be aware of the audit findings

before they start with the budget deliberations. Rep. Angel Demapan and the other committee members could ask DPL about these issues during the budget hearings.

"They say we have this money for land compensation and they don't pay land compensation. ...I just want to give the Ways and Means some heads up that we will look into this issue in the budget hearings."

"The governor is set to submit the budget on April 1. We will address it in the budget hearing. The chair will be calling on all agencies to start with the hearings. These are very significant findings."

OAG

From Page 1

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and Finance Secretary Larisa Larson were not among those named defendants in the government's lawsuit.

Former Department of Public Lands secretary John Del-Rosario had sued Hocog and Larson in their personal and official capacities for handing over \$400,000 in government funds for the operation of M/V *Luta*.

Last December, Superior Court judge pro tempore Timothy H. Bellas dismissed the claims against Hocog, ruling that Hocog's conduct was covered by legislative immunity.

In the government's lawsuit filed on Tuesday, assistant attorneys general Christopher M. Timmons and Martin de los Angeles asked the Superior Court to enter a judgment for \$400,000 in favor of the CNMI government.

The prosecutors asked the court to order an accounting of the funds the defendants received from the government and to stop the M/V *Luta* owners from transferring or wasting any property or asset that can be traced to the government's money.

The prosecutors also asked the court to stop the defendants from removing M/V *Luta* from the CNMI.

According to the government's complaint, the Rota Legislative Delegation adopted Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3 on March 20, 2015, to authorize the Finance secretary to "pay for fuel, lubrication, and costs necessary for the maiden voyage of M/V *Luta* from Louisiana

to Rota and to provide for the personnel and operational costs of the Office of the Mayor of Rota."

Hocog, who was Senate president at that time, participated in drafting and the adoption of that resolution.

Resolution 19-3 expressed the will of the Rota delegation that the Finance secretary be authorized to loan \$400,000 to the ship's owners, with the amount to be repaid within one year.

On March 27, 2015, two days after being notified by the Rota Legislative Delegation that Resolution 19-3 had been adopted, Larson remitted \$400,000 from the general fund to the defendants' bank account.

Because of this transfer, the defendants allegedly received public funds without legal authorization.

On Jan. 17, 2017, Larson asked the defendants to repay the \$400,000.

On Feb. 1, 2017, in a letter from the defendants to Larson, dated Jan. 31, 2017, they admitted to receiving the funds, the prosecutors said.

The prosecutors said the defendants admit in the letter that the funds were deposited into their account on March 30, 2015, without any agreement about repayment.

The defendants have not entered into any contract of any kind with any government agency for the repayment of the \$400,000, they said.

The prosecutors said the defendants have not agreed to use the public monies it received from the government for any public purpose and have made no payment to the government.



Hocog



Larson

SKIMMERS

From Page 1

already received reports of some ATM machines falling prey to skimmers, according to acting spokesman Jason Tarkong. He said the FBI has more information of the incident.

Yokoyama said FHB management is advising their clients and customers of other financial institutions in the CNMI to remain vigilant and immediately report any incidents. She also assured FHB customers that the alleged skimming incident did not compromise their system.

"We take our customer's privacy and reports of suspicious activity very seriously. We want to assure our customers that this did not compromise our bank's systems," said Yokoyama.

"As a precautionary measure, we are reissuing cards to our customers whose cards may have been compromised at ATMs in the region. Customers can also further protect themselves by contacting their card's financial institution to change their PIN immediately."

One of the victims, who declined to be named, learned that his bank account lost more than \$320. He said he has already reported the incident to FHB.

"The FHB representative that I talked to on the phone said that the amount was withdrawn in California on Jan. 26. How can I be in California, when all the while I've been working and living here on Saipan? It is just crazy," the victim told *Saipan Tribune* over the telephone.

He added that a similar incident happened to a brother of his friend where he lost more than \$500; again, it was withdrawn in an FHB ATM in California.

"My friend's brother is also living and working on Saipan. The last time I used my ATM was when I made a withdrawal at a terminal in Kanoa last week."

He said he would have to wait for 10 days to get his money back. "Now I have to wait for 10 days before they return my money since FHB is still investigating the incident. I don't withdraw all the money on my account. I leave some money there that is reserved to pay for our rent."

Yokoyama assured FHB clients, who become victims of skimming devices that they would get their money back, and advised them to strictly monitor any changes to their accounts and report any untoward incident.

"First Hawaiian Bank customers are not liable for unauthorized transactions on their accounts. Customers are advised to monitor their account statements and to notify their respective financial institution of any unauthorized transactions," she said.

FHB customers can call the toll-free number of their office in Hawaii at (800-545-6300 or 808-844-4321).

Public warned

Reps. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) has advised the community to be careful in making any transactions in ATM terminals and to also be on the lookout for any suspicious activity by any person using the machine.

"Customers should remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities at our ATMs," said Blanco, the vice chairman

of the Commerce and Tourism committee in the House of Representatives.

Both lawmakers also advised the public to quickly alert and report these incidents to the proper authorities.

"Several instances of skimming occurred recently at some of our banking institutions. I understand our local and federal law enforcement have been alerted to this incident," added Blanco in a text message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero, in a phone interview, added that DPS should help federal agencies to catch the skimmers. "DPS should go all out to catch these criminals. This is already a cybercrime so FBI is already involved. I just hope our police officers are also trained on how to track down and go after these skimmers."

"Banks should also put counter measures or use other anti skimming devices on their machines to protect their customers. These kind of incidents would also affect our banking and commerce, since if we can't stop this customers would rather close their accounts."

NMC hosts first Supreme Court hearing



ERWIN ENCINARES

Supreme Court justices, with the help of two attorneys that presented their arguments in a hearing conducted at the Northern Marianas College, hold a question-and-answer portion after the hearing yesterday. From left, attorney Janet King, attorney Stephen Nutting (seated), Supreme Court Associate Justice John Manglona, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, and Associate Justice Perry Inos.

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time ever, the CNMI Supreme Court held a hearing outside the confines of its courtroom.

The Supreme Court held the hearing at the Northern Marianas College yesterday on a divorce case involving marital property.

The appellant in the case, as

represented by attorney Janet King, claims the division of marital property and obligations between the appellant and appellee, as represented by attorney Stephen Nutting, is wrongly allocated.

The hearing was the result of an effort by the Judiciary to reach out to the community.

According to CNMI Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, the cases selected for hearing out

of the courtroom are dependent on the cases' availability for oral argument.

In yesterday's case, it was "a divorce case that has to do with the distribution of marital property," said Castro.

King, who represented the appellant in the case, told reporters that the hearing was a good way to open the eyes of NMC students to actual court proceedings.

"I believe that what the Supreme Court and the whole Judiciary is doing and supporting is opening up part of the process that happens when attorneys take a case for their client to court and how it is argued. You could see one segment of how a decision is made, which is the Supreme Court's decision, probably the most important decision," said King.

King also believes the pur-

pose of the outreach is to get students interested in pursuing a legal career.

"When they open it up to a

forum such as NMC instead of the actual Supreme Courthouse, they allowed more people who would otherwise, for various reasons, not be at the courthouse. I think [the Judiciary] just wants to inspire and support some of the dreams that might be out there, to be a lawyer, to eventually be a judge, and to be part of the process," she said.

A questions-and-answer portion was held after the hearing, where students asked questions about the judicial system as well as questions directed toward the justices.

Present for the hearing were Justice John A. Manglona, Castro, and Justice Perry B. Inos.

According to Castro, the next court hearing that would be held at a school would be for a criminal case. It will be held at Kagman High School next week.

For more information or if your school is interested in bringing the courtroom to the classroom, contact Ignatia Aldan at 236-9708 or ignatia.aldan@justice.gov.mp.

DPA CAR MART

WEEKLY SHIPMENT OF QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLE FROM U.S. MAINLAND



We accept special order, name it and will bring it here!
DOWN PAYMENT AS LOW AS \$1,000.00
Call 287-8688/235-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio
www.dpacarmart.com

Live the Fiesta Way!

5 COURSE MENU

Homemade Grav Lax with
Potato Pancake and
Honey Mustard Dressing

Clam Chowder in a
Sour Dough Bun

Classic Caesar
"Chino Latino"

Mosaik of Chilean Sea Bass
and Halibut

Served With Vegetable
and Wild Rice Pilaf

Or

Mixed grill of Veal, Lamb,
and Half Maine Lobster Tail
with Tomato Chervil Foam
and Vegetable Bundle

Chocolate Decadence
with Fruit Coulis



*Valentine's
Dinner*

February 14, 2017 (Tuesday)
Celebrate Valentine's Day at World Café Terrace
5 course dinner for two

WITH A BOTTLE OF YOUR CHOICE

- * Woodbridge (RM) Sparkling Wine
- * Woodbridge (RM) Chardonnay
- * Woodbridge (RM) Merlot
- * Woodbridge (RM) Cabernet Sauvignon
- * Complimentary Photo for the Couple.

*** \$150**

World Café
TERRACE

Limited Seating from 6:30pm

For reservations & inquiry

Please call 234-6414

ext. 1548 / 1544 or 233-6414



FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

'CPA not liable to pay share of *Luta*'s custodial fees'

A federal judge has ruled that the Commonwealth Ports Authority should not be made to bear a share of the custodial fees and costs for seized cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

The vessel's custodian, National Maritime Services, has demanded payment for custodial services now amounting to \$124,878.

So far, only Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto has paid an initial \$30,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood acknowledged CPA's voluntary dismissal of its intervening complaint against the



File photo shows M/V *Luta* docked at Rota's west marina.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

owners of M/V *Luta*.

Tydingco-Gatewood said this dismissal does not affect any compensation owed to CPA and incurred by the U.S. Marshals or by the ship's custodian, National Maritime Services Inc. during the post-arrest and custodial period of the vessel.

Tydingco-Gatewood said no arrest warrant shall be issued as a result of CPA's intervening complaint.

CPA voluntarily dismissed on Tuesday its intervening complaint in Yamamoto's lawsuit against Gov. Victor Hocog and owner/operators of M/V *Luta*.

CPA counsel Robert T. Torres informed the court that Luta Mermaid LLC, the owner of M/V *Luta*, and CPA have come to terms resolving the debt owed CPA.

CPA filed the intervening complaint to collect \$20,463 in alleged unpaid services from the vessel's owner.

Tydingco-Gatewood recently stopped M/V *Luta* sale for 60 days, pending the resolution of some issues.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog

and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship. The National Maritime Services was appointed as its custodian.

Aside from the ship's crewmembers, Long Consulting and Norton Lilly, Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc., intervened in the lawsuit to collect payment from Luta Mermaid.

Rota Terminal counsel Janet H. King has asserted that their motion to intervene is timely as it was made in the earliest stages of the litigation and that no significant progress in the case has been made.

King added that Rota Terminal filed its motion less than three months after learning of Yamamoto's claims.

Rota Terminal claims that M/V *Luta* owes it a total of \$165,766. Paterno S. Hocog is the chief executive officer of Rota Terminal. (Ferdie de la Torre)

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged three Saipan beaches—the Tanapag Meeting Hall, American Memorial Park, and Garapan Fishing

Dock—and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from

these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bac-

teria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

JITS hosts successful showcase before nat'l trip



YUUKI NISHIDA

Middle school students of the Junior International Thespian Society pose with their coaches after a successful showcase Monday evening at Marianas High School.

By YUUKI NISHIDA
thisisyuuki@gmail.com
STUDENT REPORTER

Eleven middle school students of the Junior Thespian Society hosted a showcase this week after bagging medals in December's regional competition.

Students took to the stage at the Marianas High School Dolphin Theater to perform their individual events during the team's Monday night showcase.

The show featured students from several public and private schools who qualified to the regional competition and placed in the top with a superior ranking. The event also showcased the CNMI Junior Thespian team who will be leaving for Sacramento, California, this weekend.

Hopwood Middle School's



YUUKI NISHIDA

Six students will represent the islands in Sacramento California, at the Junior International Thespian Festival. The students perform their selection from *Into the Woods*.

Bonnie Gio Sagana and Dandan Middle School's Donato Santiago shared their singing skills by performing their solo musical pieces.

Northern Marianas International School's Amy Solomon and Andrei Bayk-

ing performed their winning monologue selections.

DDMS' Juliet Inocencio and Jonathan Wolf and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Elisha Posadas and Merari Aniga showcased their duet acting pieces.

FMSMS' Amber Liwag and Frances Pliscou and Neriah Lumbad and Jesse Fitial performed their duet musical songs.

The showcase included a scene from the Broadway musical *Into the Woods* as performed by the CNMI team that will be jetting off to the nationals.

School coaches as well as JITS board representative Kristine Wolf and Pacific-Island District chair Harold Easton were in attendance and addressed parents' questions about the competition and trip.

The Junior International Thespian Festival is considered the largest junior theater festival in the nation. Thousands of middle school students from around the globe take part in its diverse theater categories every year.

Habitual offender gets 1 year in prison for theft

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A habitual offender was slapped Monday with a maximum sentence of one year in prison for stealing a woman's purse as she was playing cards at a friend's garage in Chalan Kanoa.

Forty-six-year-old Peter Koichi Lemei will serve his sentence without parole.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho admonished Lemei: "The people of the CNMI cry out for justice against the epidemic of thefts, burglaries, and robberies. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment," said

Lemei was given credit for time served.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be given a copy of his sentence. Lemei, also known as Peter Lemei Koichi, Petrus, and Boboi, is a citizen of Palau.

Citing Lemei's five prior cases, including a crime of violence, Camacho noted that the defendant is not a candidate for rehabilitation since the lenient sentences in Lemei's prior cases failed to rehabilitate him.

Camacho said Lemei requires a much longer sentence to ensure that he fully understands his actions and is deterred from future crimes.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, counsel for the government, recommended a prison sentence of one year. Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Lemei, recommended a prison sentence of 10 months with credit for time served.

In her written statement, the victim said she is scared and that the incident physically impacted her and her families' lives. She said she could not sleep properly, and that her day-to-day living has changed. She detailed the property lost and damage in the amount of \$2,399. The prosecution, however, charged Lemei with theft of not more than \$250.

Last Jan. 30, Camacho found Lemei guilty of theft.

The bench trial commenced on Aug. 16, 2016, continued on Oct. 31, 2016, then on Jan. 26, and ended last Jan. 30.

The victim testified that she saw the face of the person who took her purse. She stated she knows the defendant as she has seen him in the past walking by with his dog and that he stays in the neighborhood.

The victim's friend testified that she was playing cards with the victim. She said when the dogs were fighting under the table, she saw a person grab the purse but could not see the face.

MVA: Wait-times are actually much longer

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to concerns about CNMI tourists waiting in long lines to get through immigration, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said that wait-times are actually much longer than the ones posted on the Customs and Border Protection website.

“[MVA] appreciates that [CBP] has now started including wait times at the Saipan International Airport on their website. ...However, it does not paint an accurate picture of the situation,” she said.

Aldan-Pierce believes the times posted on the CBP website merely reflects the amount of time for a CBP officer to process a tourist, which is counted in minutes or seconds. She pointed out that tourists spend a much longer time while waiting in line as opposed to the time spent in the CBP area itself.

Aldan-Pierce raised this concern in her response to a letter from Delegate Gregorio C. Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) regarding the long immigration lines tourists endure before

getting to enjoy the CNMI.

“We are concerned about the waiting time in the arrivals corridor where people line up. The fact remains that hundreds of visitors are waiting in line for hours almost every morning to clear immigration,” she said.

Aldan said that in addition to the amount of time tourists need to travel to their airport, which is usually the case for larger countries (one hour); checking in of baggage prior to departure (two hours); and the travel time itself (four to five hours), tourists need to endure two to three, up to four more hours of waiting time for immigration clearance.

“Imagine waiting in an area for hours where there are no chairs and no bathrooms,” she said.

In an attempt to alleviate the long wait lines, MVA is thinking of installing a Wi-Fi connection so tourists can surf the Web while waiting and at least soothe their discomfort. The Commonwealth Ports Authority is also on the lookout for solutions.

“The MVA is working to

install Wi-Fi, but there are some structural impediments hindering that work. We have received word from the airport that chairs are on the way, but the real issue still needs to be resolved,” she said.

Aldan-Pierce, however, said she is grateful to Sablan for his assistance and suggestions and is open to discuss the issue with the delegate.

Soroptimist shines light on human trafficking

Soroptimist International of Northern Mariana Islands will be hosting a panel discussion on human trafficking on Feb 16, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Called “Together We Can End Human Trafficking in the Marianas,” the panel discussion will take place at the Giovani’s Restaurant, from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Lauri Ogumoro, Kari-dat executive director, and Pamela Brown Blackburn, Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law executive director, will speak about human trafficking in the Marianas with emphasis on ways to identify victims, ways to assist victims and community actions to prevent the continued abuse of the victims.

Blackburn and Ogumoro will speak from decades of experience combatting human trafficking in the Com-

monwealth.

Human trafficking affects communities globally. The United States is labelled a country of origin, a transit country, and a destination country. No community is immune. From small rural towns to large metropolitan cities, from farms in the middle of deserts and high plains to plantations on tropical islands, from 5-star hotel resorts to loud, hot factories, human beings are being forced to perform services, from sewing burlap bags to prostitution. Human trafficking knows no gender distinction, no ethnic distinction, no socio-economic distinction, no age distinction. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking. This is why it is recognized as the fastest growing criminal enterprise globally. It can be stopped, however, through

stakeholders to reverse this adverse effect on our tourism economy. Our entire community needs to be concerned about this situation,” said Aldan-Pierce.

Tickets are available for \$25 for the luncheon and presentation. Contact Maureen Sebangiol at 287-4674 or drop by Paradise Dental on Middle Road Gualo Rai to obtain your tickets. **(PR)**

Territorial Caucus raises concerns on healthcare

The Bipartisan Territorial Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives hopes that their constituents in the five U.S. territories would not be forgotten once healthcare reforms are put in place.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is a member of the caucus, along with Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam), Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico), Stacey Plaskett (D-U.S. Virgin Islands), and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa).

The GOP-dominated U.S. Congress has made repealing the Affordable Care Act, derided as Obamacare, one of their first order of business. They promised to replace it with a better program.

In a letter to House majority leader Kevin McCarthy (R-23rd, California) and minority leader Nancy Pelosi (D-12th, California), the caucus said they have faith the new program would provide affordable healthcare for those not covered under Obamacare, including those in the U.S. territories.

“The bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico—chaired by Senate President pro tempore Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)—recently recommended with respect to the application of Medicaid that ‘Puerto Rico and other ter-

ritories should be treated in a more equitable and sustainable manner,” the letter said.

This would lift the cap on Medicaid payments. “Additionally, this would mean the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, which is currently set by law at 55 percent for the territories, should instead be based

on income levels in a manner comparable to how FMAP is established for each state.”

The five-member caucus added that fair treatment for the territories should also be given for the Medicaid program and any federal program that would replace Obamacare. **(Jon Perez)**

Midori G. Ichihara
P.O. Box 502684 CK Saipan
670 234-3860
PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE
GUARDIANSHIP OF
Alii G. Ichihara
An Incompetent
by:
Midori G. Ichihara
Petitioner

FCD GU CIVIL
ACTION NO.
17-0055
NOTICE OF
HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Midori G. Ichihara, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth Govendo on the 23rd day of March, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ by: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Claimants

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Estate of
MARCELA UNTALAN HOFSCHEIDER
Deceased.

: CIVIL ACTION
NO.: 04-0564
:
:

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 2, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Marcela Untalan Hofschneider in and to the following property: Lot 101 T 05, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. This lot contains an area of 25,037 square meters. It is believed that the Estate of Marcela Untalan Hofschneider is the owner of an undivided 13,777 square meters in the said lot.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
DPW-17-IFB-005

TANGANTANGAN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Tangantangan Road Improvement Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 2, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred **Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 21, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 3, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked “**DPW-17-IFB-005**”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 8, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, March 8, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@ptpic.com**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 8, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 17, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 22, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 8, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Gov't Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

11 MHS students take part in cultural exchange



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 11 Marianas High School students who participated in a cultural exchange and ski program with Seisa Gakuen High School in Japan and their chaperones have their picture taken at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before their departure.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas High School students have their picture taken with their hosts upon arriving in Japan.

Eleven Marianas High School students completed a successful cultural exchange and ski program with its sister school, Seisa Gakuen High School, in Japan.

Student participants in the one-week program, which lasted from Jan. 21 to Jan. 28, were Jonsie Benavente, Leah Benavente, Julia Espino, Jayda Mendoza, Michelle Polig,

Negahr Rastguii, Ariane Reyes, Jose Carreon, Dalton Dancoe, Ethan Kwon, and Fritz Manzano.

During the program, students learned about the importance of multicultural aware-

ness, experienced a snapshot of the Japanese educational system, and built lifelong friendships with their Japanese exchange partners.

Some of the activities during the cultural exchange

program included learning how to make traditional Japanese paper, playing Taiko drums, participating in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, dressing in traditional Japanese wear, and building an appreciation of Japanese arts and craft.

In addition to the valuable cultural exchange activities, students were also given an opportunity to learn how to ski at the beautiful Mount Naeba Ski Resort.

This year's program marks the 31st anniversary of the partnership between Marianas High School and Seisa Gakuen High School.

The Participate and Learn Program aims to celebrate the diversity of cultures and build friendship among student from both schools.

The program participants would like to thank the following individuals, organizations, and agencies for their valuable support and contribution toward this year's program:

Marianas High School administration, Seisa Gakuen High School administration, Education Commissioner, Board of Education leaders and members, Marianas Visitors Authority, D&Q Wholesale, Monica Crisostomo, Benavente & Sons Corp., Luis P. and Maria S. Crisostomo, APC Co., Ltd., and ITS Corp. (PR)

Power outage on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017, from 6:30am to 11:30am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely continue change out of wooden power poles to concrete power poles along Dandan Rd. in Dandan. This is an on-going program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the distribution circuit.

Areas to be affected: Dandan Rd. (Atdao St., Ayuda St., Ayuda Ct., Tenda Av., Sailing Dr., Exchange

Ln., Pution Ln., Pulan Ln., Mapagahes Ln., Trolling Pl., Walking Pl., Fishing Pl., Adios Pl., Kattan Hudda Dr., Kamma Pl., Hook Ln., Parasail Pl., Batu Pl., Gabbe Pl., and Tokpong Pl.)

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are being encouraged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The MHS Group poses for a picture at the Naeba Ski Field.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Mom, Lennie! May your day be filled with lots of love, happiness and blessing. Greetings come from the family.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water outage on West Isa Drive, Capital Hill

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, Feb. 10, 2017, from 7:30am to 5pm, to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, GPPC, to connect the new 6-inch distribution main along West Isa Drive to the existing 8-inch water main at the intersection of Capital Hill Road and Isa Drive intersection. Customers in the affected area should expect restoration of services soon thereafter. Affected areas: Isleta Ct. Sagua Dr., Hafno St., Mate Dr. all the way to Vestcor Appt. (CUC)

Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is \$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding championships. These events will be officially sanctioned by NMBPF and will determine those competitors who will be eligible to represent the CNMI in international competitions.

For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email

jeannesq@yahoo.com or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. (PR)

McFun Run to take place on Feb. 18

The Rotary Club of Saipan and McDonald's Saipan will be hosting the Annual McFun Run on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, along Saipan's beautiful Beach Road pathway. This event for 5K and 10K runs along the pathway from the Carolinian *utt* in Garapan to the 5K turnaround by the National Office Supply or the turnaround at the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and back to the Carolinian *utt*. Registration begins at 5am at the Carolinian *utt*. Start time is 6:15am. Registration forms are available or can be picked up at all Saipan McDonald's branches, MegaByte, or NMPSI office. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on Feb. 8 from noon to 10pm and Feb. 9 from 10am to noon. The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 10 from 9am to 1pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels

are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Calling Tinian homestead applicants

Current Tinian homestead applicants interested in finding out the status of their homestead applications can contact Lisa Aguon, DPL Tinian Office, at (670) 433-9245 to book an appointment on Feb. 2 or 3, 2017. (PR)

Become a Reading Ranger at AMP

The American Memorial Park is inviting first to third graders on Saipan to participate in this year's first Reading Ranger selection. Over three days, Feb. 7, 8, and 9, from 3pm to 4:30pm, young readers will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland Hunter by a park ranger.

To register your child, call lead ranger Brooke Nevitt or Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020. There are a limited number of spaces and participation will be determined by the date of registration. For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at: brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 18



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo of the 2015 XTERRA Saipan Championship in the Marianas. The 2017 XTERRA Saipan Championship will be held on March 18, 2017.

Expect a tightly contested race in XTERRA Saipan Championship's 16th edition with former winners coming back and other big name pros competing for the first time to earn the bragging rights of clinching the crown jewel of the world's toughest off-road triathlon event.

XTERRA Saipan, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, is the first leg of the nine stops of the Asia-Pacific tour. The race is set on March 18, 2017, beginning

with a 1.5-kilometer swim off the waters of Micro Beach, followed by a punishing 30K bike ride up and down the off-road hills, and a 12K epic run going through the tropical rainforest, past World War II relics, and inside secret caves.

Registration is open until March 16, 2017, at www.xterra-saipan.org.

"We're looking forward to welcoming all athletes from the Marianas and abroad for another great race on March 18," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

An exciting subplot of this year's edition is the anticipated face-off between Australian pros Ben Allen and Brodie Gardner, who are both returning to again test their skills in one of the most technical layouts of XTERRA's global tour events.

Gardner was last year's winner in his XTERRA Saipan debut, conquering the course even with less than an hour's sleep, making his victory more interesting. The Sunshine Coast, Queensland resident was supposed to arrive on Thursday, two days before the actual race, but encountered some problems with his papers but still managed to

make it to Saipan. He arrived at 1:30am, less than five hours before the race starts, and was among the competitors at the starting line at 6am but still managed to finish the entire course in 2:52:46, more than one minute ahead of Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara, who is also expected to make a run for the men's crown.

Allen, meanwhile, skipped last year's race together with his fiancée, Jacqui Slack of Great Britain, due to limited travel funds. He will return this year to reclaim the men's pro title that he won four consecutive years from 2012 to 2015, tying two-time Olympian Olivier Marceau's record

streak from 2004 to 2007.

Yuichi Hosoda and Akihiko Maeda would join Ogasawara that would competing in the Men's Pro Elite along with Austrians Markus Benesch and Dominik Wychera, Russian Aleksandr Dorovskikh, American Will Kelsay, the Philippines' Joe Miller, and Bradley Weiss of South Africa.

Carina Wasle of Austria was among the first who confirmed of competing in the women's division where she hopes to defend the crown she has won twice in the last three years.

Canada's Mike Vine (men's) and California native

Jamie Whitmore (women's) won the inaugural event in 2002, with the latter reigning for two more years before being dethroned by Switzerland's Renata Bucher, who went on to win a record seven times including six straight from 2005 to 2010.

Whitmore is best remembered for clinching the 2004 World Championships aside from claiming 37 titles in various races around the world and winning her battle against cancer, where she received an ESPY for Best Female Athlete with a Disability in 2014. She was also enshrined on the XTERRA Hall of Fame in 2012. (MVA)

Meet Jebro Leon, Marianas-chan

Six-year-old aspiring photographer Jebro John Leon has bested 21 other applicants to be named Marianas-chan, the young and endearing face of the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan.

Leon wowed a panel of seven judges during auditions last month (January 2017), actively engaging with the interviewer, sharing his personal interests, and hitting a photogenic pose at the end of the audition to win the title.

"Jebro's adorable, he's got island-style, and he made us laugh. He's memorable!" said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We hope all these endearing qualities will also help him make a lasting impression with media and industry partners in Japan."

Leon is the son of Leonard Leon and Brooke Nevitt. As part of his duties, he will at-

tend at least two MVA promotional events in Japan in the year ahead, sharing the *hafa adai-tirow* spirit by greeting other participants, posing for photos, and other activities.

"We thank all the children who auditioned and their parents for taking the time to participate," said Concepcion. "We worked to give every child an enjoyable experience being before our judges, and we made sure every child walked away with a small gift from the MVA. It was a difficult decision to choose among 22 charming applicants. We thank our judges for their time and effort in selecting the first ever Marianas-chan."

So, what is first on the list for the Marianas' newest performer? After auditioning in shoulder-length hair, Leon expressed enthusiasm about getting a haircut for his new role. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Six-year-old Jebro John Leon of Saipan is selected as Marianas-chan and will participate in select marketing programs of the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan in the year ahead.



'INCLUSIVE PRACTICES'

The CNMI Public School System held a two-day Safe Space Training for educators to provide resources and updates on ways to support LGBTQ students in schools and discussions took place on "inclusive practices for all students." The training is part of the school district's commitment in ensuring a safe learning and inclusive environment for all.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 28

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Israel policy in murky stage

The United States' relations with Israel are focused on three questions. The first is, what are Israel's intentions with respect to the West Bank? The second: Will the approach of the Trump administration be different from that of President Barack Obama? The third is an eternal one—what will be the interplay between Israeli and American policy? It's a question of global importance.

Evidence that has appeared on all three questions since Trump's election is unclear. The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has authorized the building of some 5,000 new Jewish settler residences in the occupied West Bank since then. By making possible increased illegal Jewish settlement in the West Bank, the Israeli government is showing it does not intend to clear the decks for a good-faith negotiation with the Palestinians of a two-state resolution of the long-standing issue of the division of the land of the West Bank.

Such an action instead suggests an unstated intention to eventually annex the West Bank to Israel, in spite of international and Palestinian opposition to it as well as the implications of it for Israel's future as a democratic and Jewish state. There is also the prospect of unending and violent Middle East conflict, potentially to be avoided by the finding of a home for the Palestinians. This question remains pertinent in spite of estimates of the political future of Netanyahu, accused of corruption.

The second question is what is going on with respect to U.S. Israel policy. That, too, is unclear at this point. Trump's choice for U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, is a previous financial contributor to Israeli West Bank settlement. On the other hand, Ambassador Nikki Haley, the new representative at the United Nations, last week declared U.S. opposition to Israel's new ambitious construction plans in the occupied West Bank.

The Trump administration's Israel policy may become clearer when Netanyahu visits the U.S. in mid-month, but, as of now, it remains as murky as the question of when America will move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, as Trump has promised.

The third question is the likely interplay between U.S. policy toward Israel and Israel's own actions, especially regarding negotiations with the Palestinians about a two-state accord. That turns, in part, on money. The U.S. now provides Israel around \$3 billion per year in military aid. Israel sells about \$5 billion per year in arms to other countries, including China. Israel doesn't need the cash, but the symbolism of the military aid remains undiminished as an indicator of U.S. support.

All of these questions are up in the air with a major change of administration and, possibly, policy in Washington. They are not small questions in any way, bearing as they do on America's posture not only in the Middle East but in the world.

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Incendiary Hitler imagery is lazy and offensive

I'm not Jewish, but if I were, I'd be pretty angry about the liberal use of "Hitler" as an accusation against our president.

When I went to the protest at the airport last week, something of which I am still proud and for which I will not apologize even though I've lost friends over it, the thing that troubled me almost as much as Trump's legally suspect order suspending immigration was the posters depicting him with a tiny black mustache, the signs with the "s" in Steve Bannon's name drawn like a swastika and the litany of comments about the "racists" in the Oval Office.

This will likely come as a surprise to the people who, on Facebook, have posted hundreds of comments telling me I don't know a damn thing about the Constitution, about immigration law, about executive action, about the separation of powers, and about terrorism.

All of those people are, by the way, my conservative friends (and I use both terms rather loosely).

They seem to think that I agree with the wack jobs who are trying to pass themselves off as legitimate protesters. I do not agree with the wack jobs, in case you were wondering. I almost went up to the woman with the frizzy hair and the stupid pink pussy hat on her head with the sign reading "Deport the Racist" and told her that she was exactly the sort of person I'd love to deport if I were queen of the world. I feel this way because, well, because going over the top like that makes my job and my life a lot harder.

Donald Trump did a stupid thing last weekend, and he is now answering for it. I frankly don't care if my conservative friends strip me of my membership card and the Mickey Mouse ears and the super-secret-password, but I will not concede that the substance or the rollout of that ridiculous and extremely hurtful executive order suspending immigration and banning nationals of certain randomly chosen countries was legitimate. I'm in some good company with that, too, including a few federal judges.

But all of that being said, and understanding that Trump and his assistants have looked extremely amateurish and tragically clueless (Kellyanne Conway, I truly love you, but your comments about the Bowling Green Massacre were not alternative facts, they were standup comedy), there is absolutely no justification for playing the Hitler card.

I'm sick of people I used to respect casually throwing out the word as if it makes them look cool, hip and so "tuned in" to the resistant zeitgeist. Maybe I'm so damned angry about the rhetoric because I do asylum law and I know, deep in my bones, what the Hitlers of the world have done and are continuing to do.

Believe me, folks, Donald Trump, Steve Bannon, Kellyanne

By **CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



Conway and Sean Spicer do not wear white sheets for ceremonial photo-ops, nor are they fluent in German. And the fact that Trump's highly regarded son-in-law is a Jew has nothing to do with saving the POTUS from allegations of genocidal intent.

Because that is what the yahoos who carry signs depicting our president as a Nazi are doing, trying to create an indelible image in the minds of the average American that they are living in the Fourth Reich. They, and we, are not.

I'm out here on the front lines fighting against what Trump is doing with his assembly-line executive orders. I am confident that the federal courts will scale them back to such an extent that he will be taught a lesson to think before he writes (or tweets). If someone on his old "Apprentice" show had produced such an inferior work product as that which he produced last week, they would be, yes, indeed, fired.

On Monday, I was at the asylum office trying to convince an officer that my client deserves protection from the drug lords and the people who want to keep him from worshipping in his home parish.

But I did not try to win that case by accusing the president and his Cabinet of being Hitler. I did it by accusing real despots, who do a lot more than just tweet idiotic, insulting and moronic things.

If we really lived in the Fourth Reich, those wack jobs at the airport last week, the ones with the signs that made me cringe, would have been rounded up and thrown in jail. I'm sure that right now, they are sitting happily in their homes patting themselves on the back about how clever their conduct was.

I'm tired of journalists engaging in lazy thinking and writing the first incendiary thoughts that come to mind, because they are angry. I'm angry, too, but when we start calling everything Hitler, the word and the concept lose meaning.

If I were a Jew, I'd be angry. Hell, I'm a person who has dealt with the victims of more recent holocausts and genocides, and I'm livid.

Lay off the Hitler imagery. The vision Trump has given us this week is bad enough.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The value of competition: Consumer and economic benefits

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" discusses the value of competition in the marketplace and how it benefits consumers.

What if there was only one grocery store in your community? What if you could buy a phone from only one retailer? What if only one dealer in your area sold cars? Without competition, the grocer may have no incentive to lower prices. The phone shop may have no reason to offer a range of choices. The car dealer may have no motivation to keep its showroom open at convenient hours or offer competitive financing. **Competition in America is about price, selection, and service.** It benefits consumers by keeping prices low and the quality and choice of goods and services high. Competition also encourages businesses to offer new and better products. Competition makes our economy work.

What is antitrust?

The word "antitrust" dates from the late 1800s, when powerful companies dominated industries, working together as "trusts" to stifle competition. Thus, laws aimed at protecting competition have long been labeled "antitrust." Fast forward to the 21st century: you hear "antitrust" in news stories about competitors merging or companies conspiring to reduce competition. By enforcing antitrust laws, the Federal Trade Commission helps to ensure that our markets are open and free. The OAG and the FTC promote free and open competition and challenge anticompetitive business practices to make sure that consumers have access to quality goods and services at competitive prices, and that

businesses can compete on the merits of their work. The OAG and the FTC do not choose winners and losers—you, as the consumer, do that. Rather, our job is to make sure that businesses are competing fairly within a set of rules.

Business practices actively monitored by the OAG and the FTC

Agreements among competitors: It is illegal for business rivals to act together in ways that can limit competition, lead to higher prices, or hinder other businesses from entering the market.

Monopoly Activity: A monopoly exists when one company controls a product or service in a market. If a company gains a monopoly because it offers consumers a better product at a better price, that is not against the law. But if it creates or maintains a monopoly by unreasonably excluding other companies, or by impairing other companies' ability to compete against them, that conduct raises antitrust concerns.

Other Anticompetitive Conduct: Business strategies that reduce competition may be illegal if they lack a reasonable business justification.

How to keep the Commonwealth's markets competitive?

By challenging anticompetitive business practices, the OAG and the FTC help to ensure that consumers have choices in price, selection, and service. To learn about competition problems, the OAG and the FTC often receive information from consumers like you. If you suspect illegal behavior, please notify the OAG and/or the FTC.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program aims to provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair

trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) and then please submit it by email to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

By JEFF BUST
Chicago Tribune



Jeff Bust lives in Frankfort, Ill. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

I'm a deplorable, and I'm glad I voted for Trump

My views on most issues are not fashionable or attractive to the mainstream media, Hollywood celebrities, educators or Democrats.

I am weary of lectures about what values I should have and how insensitive I am. I am tired of being "guilted" for having a job, finding a way to live comfortably and having a practical sense of priority on global warming. I make choices and decisions based on what can be done and what I can pay for, not on what is said or promised. I don't carry signs, chant, dress up in clever costumes, vandalize or wear pink hats.

I work, and I worry about who pays the tab. My voice has not counted for years, but we have long since passed the point where that is even relevant. The injustice now is that this country has already spent so much money and incurred so much debt that the bill will fall to our grandchildren. My view is that this country does not have the right to spend future taxpayers' money without their consent.

I can accept a view that women have a right to have an abortion, but I don't want government to pay for them. I understand that Democrats feel the need to atone for their party's defense of slavery before the Civil War, opposition to reconstruction immediately after the Civil War and support of Southern racial segregation until the 1960s, but I don't want my grandchildren's money spent trying to make this right. I welcome any immigrant who can contribute, pay taxes and obey our laws, but I don't want to pay to support those who can't.

But all that doesn't matter. My grandchildren should make these choices themselves, not the current collection of Washington and state government politicians who use my taxes to make empty speeches and buy votes in the next election. Balance the budgets and pay off state and federal debt first. And then we can have all the empty values-centered debates about which cause du jour we want to throw money at.

It seems that the outcome of the last election is understood only by people like me. Frankly, I don't like Donald Trump either. He is arrogant, careless with what he says, overly competitive and insensitive.

I voted for Trump because he was the alternative to letting a collection of free spenders, organizers, race baiters, intellectuals, tree huggers and professional value arbitrators continue to spend our grandchildren's money.

This country and this generation of voters must pay our bills and not sit around having dorm-room debates on philosophy and injustice. I voted for Trump because we can't afford another president we simply like; we need one who does something.

So, go ahead — rage, riot, demonstrate, burn, dress up, march, protest, pout, sing, make speeches, resist, vandalize and denounce me as much as you want.

I am deplorable, and I am happier with my vote every day.

It pays to keep women engaged with science

When it comes to interest in science, most people enter the world on a level playing field.

Boys and girls alike experience a natural sense of wonder at the world around them. Whether watching a butterfly emerge from its cocoon or watching a meteor shower while lying on the grass, children start life with the innate curiosity every scientist needs. So why, in later years, do so few girls and women wind up exploring careers in science and math?

Culture and history, not nature, create most of the discrepancy between men and women in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. Previously, our society saw no role for women in these fields, and such barriers take time to break down. Yet we know that schoolchildren are motivated to perform well in science and math, regardless of gender. And recent data indicate there's little to no difference in ability between female and male students—especially in countries where the culture values having both in the sciences.

In declaring Feb. 11, 2017, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the United Nations highlights that just 28 percent of current researchers worldwide are women. The proportion in the U.S. is very similar.

We need to keep more women, as well as people of color, engaged with science.

It's in our national interest. Having careers in science and math remain largely the purview of a minority of the population severely limits our talent pool. That's a threat for large sectors of the economy—and for our ability as a nation to problem-solve some of society's biggest challenges, from infrastructure to disease to climate change.

What's more, having more women and people of color on teams improves scientific outcomes: Researchers have found that scientific papers with more diverse authorship receive more citations, and that a tech startup or pharmaceutical company with more women on its board of directors is more likely to succeed.

Why this occurs isn't clear. Whatever the reason, what is clear is that increasing underrepresented groups' numbers in STEM fields has the potential to transform research and large sectors of the economy.

I've thought about this a lot since the December death of groundbreaking scientist Vera Rubin. She discovered evidence

By SHELLEY PAYNE
The Dallas Morning News



Shelley Payne is a professor of molecular biosciences at The University of Texas at Austin. She wrote this for The Dallas Morning News.

of dark matter, but she faced numerous unnecessary barriers in her work.

I can only imagine what she might have accomplished if her pursuit of astronomy had been helped, rather than hindered, by some of the people around her.

When I consider how I wound up a scientist, I credit my parents who nurtured my curiosity, tolerating the insect collections and pet opossum, and teachers who encouraged me. When I arrived at the points in my career where relatively few women remained, I retained a stubborn love for science and had supportive male mentors who didn't treat women in laboratories as an unknown species.






I was fortunate. But luck shouldn't determine whether a promising student stays in science. We need to take advantage of the potential in bright and curious girls, allowing them to be as successful as their male counterparts.

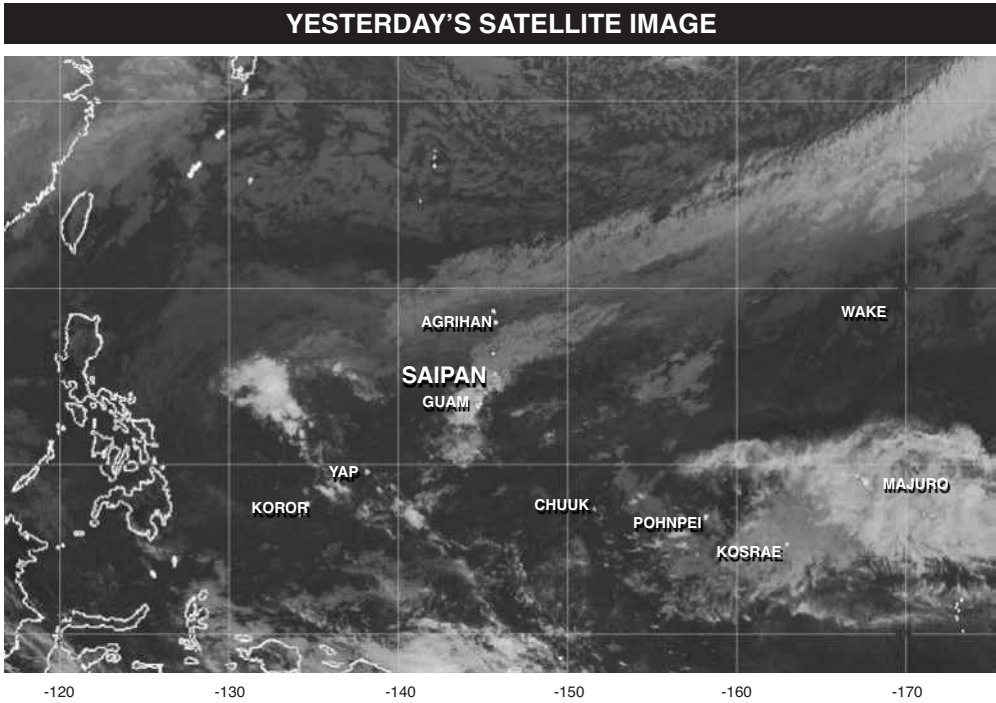
That starts with removing all the artificial barriers to success. Parents and teachers can help work against cultural biases, by encouraging and nurturing their daughters' and female students' early interest in science. And people in leadership—from elected officials to school principals—can speak up for a vision of a future STEM workforce that reflects the population as a whole.

Women don't need token accommodations or to be treated as an afterthought. Their value is inherent. But from preschool to graduate school and beyond, we must support girls and boys, men and women.

It's on all of us to foster future interest in STEM and help our children develop the necessary skills to succeed. Our society will benefit from it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Partly sunny with isolated showers. South-east winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers
▲ 90° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°



PICTURE TIME: 11:45 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Shear line will dominate the local weather through tonight. Looks like it will then retreat back to the north for now. During the first half of next week a shear line comes through and pushes all the way south of Guam. It is unclear at this time whether it is this shear line with a renewed push of mid-latitude air or a new shear line. Due to the short time period, it seems more likely that it is this same shear line which gets some new life breathed into it. This will raise the wind speeds and raise the sea heights back up. Went ahead and mentioned this in the small craft advisory.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Partly cloudy	72° / 59°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	77° / 67°
London	Cloudy	39° / 30°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	75° / 57°
Manila	Showers	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 61°
New York	Snow	36° / 19°
Osaka	Snow Shower	39° / 30°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	40 / 59 °F
Pusan	Windy	39° / 25°
Rome	Showers	57° / 45°
Salem	Sunny	56° / 31°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	48° / 31°
Seoul	Sunny	27° / 16°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 30°
Washington, DC	Windy	41° / 23°

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:19 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.41
7:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
12:42 PM	LOW TIDE	1.09
5:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:50 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	-	5:45 AM	5:37 PM
Saturday	-	6:36 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	-	7:23 AM	7:29 PM
Monday	-	8:08 AM	8:21 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
--------	--------	-------

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Disney’s wonderful world may be too good to last

NEW YORK (AP)—Disney has been on a tear the past few years, thanks to popular channels like ESPN, its “Star Wars” and Marvel superhero franchises, and improving results at its global parks.

Now comes the hard part.

CEO Robert Iger’s contract runs out next year, creating management uncertainty just as Disney needs to keep its lucrative television offerings relevant in a world increasingly dominated by streaming services.

The company faces “a time of transition” as consumers abandon expensive cable subscriptions, said Morgan Stanley analyst Benjamin Swinburne. That shift threatens Disney mainstays such as ABC and ESPN. Here’s a look at Disney’s evolving realities.

LIVE TV NOT SO HEALTHY

ESPN has been one of Disney’s crown jewels, but with cable viewership on the decline, its ratings have been under pressure.

Disney revenue and profit



AP
In this Thursday, June 16, 2016, file photo, Disney CEO Bob Iger poses for selfies with visitors on the opening day of the Disney Resort in Shanghai, China.

both fell in the October-December quarter, hurt by a decline at ESPN and tough comparisons to a year ago, when it released “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” Profit dropped 14 percent to \$2.48 billion on revenue that declined 3 percent to

\$14.78 billion.

Cable network revenue fell 2 percent to \$4.4 billion, hurt by lower ESPN revenue. Disney blamed the ESPN results on higher programming costs and lower advertising revenue, partially offset by affiliate revenue growth.

STREAMING AHEAD

So Disney has been working hard to adapt to the new realities of online TV watching.

Its channels—ABC, The Disney Channel, ESPN and others—are all part of less expensive “skinny” channel bundles on streaming ser-

vices such as Sling TV, Sony PlayStation Vue, and DirecTV now.

Disney also took a \$1 billion stake in BAMTech, which provides streaming for Major League Baseball. Disney plans to use that technology for an ESPN streaming service, set to launch this year, which will offer live game streaming and programming not offered on regular ESPN.

Disney might also one day offer a standalone streaming version of ESPN, much the way HBO has with its \$15-a-month-service HBO Now.

In a conference call with analysts, Iger said Disney won’t rush to offer the ESPN standalone service, in part because the company still makes a lot of money from cable and satellite fees. But he said ultimately it is Disney’s “powerful intent to go out there aggressively with digital offerings directed to consumers for ESPN” and other Disney offerings.

Twitter broadens its campaign against hate and abuse

NEW YORK (AP)—Twitter announced Tuesday that it is expanding efforts to protect its users from abuse and harassment, the latest milestone in a broader, growing corporate campaign to crack down on online hate.

The social media giant said it has begun identifying people who have been banned for abusive behavior and it will stop them from creating new accounts. The company said its changes, which also include a new “safe search” feature, will be implemented in the coming weeks.

In July, Twitter banned conservative provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos, an editor of the right-wing news site Breitbart News, for “participating in or inciting targeted abuse of individuals.” Twitter subsequently suspended the accounts of other prominent figureheads of the “alt-right” fringe movement, an amorphous mix of racism, white nationalism, xenophobia and anti-feminism.

Twitter has been under fire

for failing to address hate and abuse on the site since its founding a decade ago. Balancing its reputation as a free speech haven has come into conflict with efforts to protect users.

Other internet companies have taken recent steps to curb abusive behavior and ban users who violate rules against promoting hate.

Reddit banned a forum for white nationalists from its social news website last Wednesday. A message at the link for the “r/altright” subreddit attributed its ban to an impermissible “proliferation of personal and confidential information.”

Also last week, the crowdfunding website GoFundMe removed a campaign for a conservative author and self-described “researcher” on the internet conspiracy theory known as “pizzagate,” which alleged with no evidence that Democrats were running a child sex ring out of a Washington, D.C., pizza shop. Brittany Pettibone had launched her GoFundMe campaign for a video podcast

about “traditional values that once made Western Civilization great,” including “love of one’s own culture, race and country.”

GoFundMe spokesman Bobby Whithorne said in an email that Pettibone’s campaign was removed because it violated the company’s terms of service, which include rules against promoting hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, terrorism or “intolerance of any kind.” Pettibone, who declined to be interviewed, tweeted that GoFundMe didn’t specify how her campaign violated its terms of service.

Hate speech and promoting violence have long been barred under the terms of service of internet and social media companies such as Twitter and Facebook. But in the months leading up to the contentious presidential election, the emergence of the “alt-right” and high-profile trolling campaigns like one targeting “Ghostbusters” star Leslie Jones thrust the issue to the forefront.

GOP senior statesmen making push for a carbon tax

WASHINGTON (AP)—A group of Republican senior statesmen are pushing for a carbon tax to combat the effects of climate change, and hoping to sell their plan to the White House.

Former Secretary of State Jim Baker is leading the effort, which also includes former Secretary of State George Shultz. In an opinion piece published Tuesday night in The Wall Street Journal, they argued “there is mounting evidence of problems with the atmosphere that are growing too compelling to ignore.”

The group will meet Wednesday with White House officials, including Vice President Mike Pence, senior adviser Jared Kushner, and Gary Cohn, director of the National Economic Council. Ivanka Trump is also expected to attend, according to a person familiar with the plans. The person was not authorized to

discuss the meeting publicly and insisted on anonymity.

Carbon taxes are designed to raise the cost of fossil fuels to bring down consumption. Baker and Shultz detailed in the opinion piece their plan for a gradually increasing carbon tax, with dividends being returned to people, as well as border adjustments for the carbon content of exports and imports and the rollback of regulations.

According to an outline of the plan, the group will call for a gradually increasing carbon tax that “might begin at \$40 a ton and increase steadily over time.” It would raise \$200 billion to \$300 billion annually. They would then redistribute tax proceeds back to consumers on a quarterly basis in what they call “carbon dividends” that could be approximately \$2,000 annually for a family of four.

Their plan would also set

“border adjustments” based on carbon, which would result in fees for products from countries without similar carbon pricing systems. And they would seek to rollback regulations enacted under Obama, including the Clean Power Plan.

So far, Trump has sent mixed signals on whether or how he will try to slow Earth’s warming temperatures and rising sea levels.

During the transition, Trump met with prominent climate activists Al Gore and Leonardo DiCaprio. Ivanka Trump, a close adviser to her father, has indicated interest in working on the issue. But the president has also hired oil industry champions who want to reverse President Barack Obama’s efforts to rein in emissions.

The White House press office did not immediately respond to request for comment.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

20,090.29

+37.87

0.19%

↑

S&P

2,293.08

+0.52

0.02%

↑

NASDAQ

5,674.22

+10.67

0.19%

↑

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7585	Russian Ruble	59.328
Australian Dollar	1.3102	Singapore Dollar	1.4175
British Pound	0.7998	Japanese Yen	112.33
Canadian Dollar	1.3178	Malaysian Ringgit	4.44
Chinese Yuan	6.8827	New Zealand Dollar	1.3705
Euro	0.9359	Philippine Peso	49.83
		Swiss Franc	0.9976
		Taiwan Dollar	31.066
		Thailand Baht	35.02



Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD STORE

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM

direct from **KMART**

LG 12,000 BTU WINDOW AIRCON
\$329⁹⁵

LG 5,000 BTU WINDOW AIRCON
\$149⁹⁵

CROSLLEY 26 CU.FT. 2 REFRIGERATOR
\$1,399⁹⁵

WATER PITCHER WITH CUPS
\$3⁹⁵

7PC PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINER
\$3⁹⁵

SNAPWARE SMART STORE 20X12
\$14⁹⁵

RUBBERMAID 1.5 BU. HIP HUGGER BASKET
\$10⁹⁵

ILIVE BLUETOOTH 2.1 SPEAKER SYSTEM
\$65⁹⁵

SINGER FASHION MATE SEWING MACHINE
\$155⁹⁵

WAHL CHROME PRO 25PC HAIR CLIPPER SET
\$34⁹⁵

TAYLOR ANALOG SCALE
\$15⁹⁵

CERAMIC TABLE LAMP
\$10⁹⁵

EMERGENCY LIGHT BULB
\$3⁹⁵

ESSENTIAL HOME GRAYSON 6 DRAWER DRESSER
\$169⁹⁵

ESSENTIAL HOME HERITAGE FUTON
\$349⁹⁵

DAHDOL - 3PC EMBOSSED BEDSPREAD QUEEN SIZE
\$19⁹⁵

DEAL

OF THE

WEEK!

SAVE \$10.00

HOME SMART SOFA BED

\$89⁹⁵

KENMORE 1.6 CU.FT. REFRIGERATOR
\$129⁹⁵

SUNBEAM .7 CU.FT. MICROWAVE
\$79⁹⁵

ESSENTIAL HOME HAYDEN 5PC HIGH TOP DINING SET
\$279⁹⁵

KENMORE 12" TABLE FAN
\$22⁹⁵

BRENTWOOD ELECTRIC PRESSURE COOKER
\$75⁹⁵

BLACK & DECKER 7-14 CUPS RICE COOKER
\$39⁹⁵

ALPHA MARBLE WOK 34QT
\$19⁹⁵

BRENTWOOD 12 CUP COFFEMAKER
\$15⁹⁵

ALPHA 40CM STOCK POT
\$39⁹⁵

MEMORY FOAM PILLOW
\$8⁹⁵

FACE TOWEL 26X26CM 10CT
\$2⁹⁵

ESSENTIAL HOME TWIN SIZE BUNK BED MATTRESS
\$69⁹⁵

EVA MAT
\$9⁹⁵

YOGA MAT
\$6⁹⁵

STOR 5 TIER WIRE SHELF
\$65⁹⁵

SHOE RACK WARDROBE
\$8⁹⁵

WOODEN GUITAR
\$17⁹⁵

CRAFTSMAN 3 DRAWER PORTABLE TOOL CHEST
\$55⁹⁵

CRAFTSMAN 8 GALLON WET/DRY VACUUM
\$79⁹⁵

TELE BRANDS HURRICANE SPIN MOP
\$42⁹⁵

CAR MAT 4PC SET
\$5⁹⁵

WEEDEATER GAS BLOWER
\$109⁹⁵

FOLDING CAMPING COT
\$19⁹⁵

GARDEN TABLE & CHAIR SET WITH UMBRELLA
\$179⁹⁵

FOLDING BEACH LOUNGE CHAIR
\$24⁹⁵

WESLO CADENCE R 5.2 ELECTRIC TREADMILL
\$499⁹⁵

FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS
TRIPLE J

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store
We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430








MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Judges hammer attorneys on both sides of travel ban case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—President Donald Trump's travel ban faced its toughest test yet Tuesday as a panel of appeals court judges hammered away at the administration's claim that the ban was motivated by terrorism fears while also directing pointed questions to an attorney challenging the executive order on grounds that it unconstitutionally targeted Muslims.

The contentious hearing before three judges on the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals focused narrowly on whether a restraining order issued by a lower court should remain in effect while a challenge to the ban proceeds. But the judges also jumped into the larger constitutional questions surrounding Trump's order, which temporarily suspended the nation's refugee program and immigration from seven mostly Muslim countries that have raised terrorism concerns.

The hearing was conducted by phone—an unusual step—and broadcast live on cable networks, newspaper websites and various social media outlets. It attracted a huge audience, with more than 130,000

alone tuned in to the court's YouTube site to hear audio.

Judge Richard Clifton, a George W. Bush nominee, asked an attorney representing Washington state and Minnesota what evidence he had that the ban was motivated by religion. The two states are suing to invalidate the ban.

"I have trouble understanding why we're supposed to infer religious animus when in fact the vast majority of Muslims would not be affected."

Only 15 percent of the world's Muslims are affected, the judge said, citing his own calculations. He added that the "concern for terrorism from those connected to radical Islamic sects is hard to deny."

Noah Purcell, Washington state's solicitor general, cited public statements by Trump calling for a ban on the entry of Muslims to the U.S. He said the states did not have to show every Muslim is harmed, only that the ban was motivated by religious discrimination.

Clifton also went after the government's attorney, asking whether he denied statements by Trump and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who said recently that



Baraah Alawdi, originally from Yemen, poses for photos next to an unidentified artist's mannequin placed outside of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017.

AP

Trump asked him to create a plan for a Muslim ban. Judge Michelle T. Friedland, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, asked why the case should not move forward to determine what motivated

the ban.

"We're not saying the case shouldn't proceed, but we are saying that it is extraordinary for a court to enjoin the president's national security decision based on some news-

paper articles," said August Flentje, who argued the case for the Justice Department.

Under questioning from Clifton, Flentje did not dispute that Trump and Giuliani made the statements.

Clifton said he understood if the government argued that statements by Trump and his advisers should not be given much weight, but he said they are potentially evidence in the case.

DeVos ekes out confirmation win as Pence casts historic vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—Charter school advocate Betsy DeVos won confirmation as education secretary Tuesday by the slimmest of margins, pushed to approval only by the historic tie-breaking vote of Vice President Mike Pence.

Two Republicans, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, joined Democrats in a marathon effort to derail the nomination of the wealthy Republican donor. The Senate historian said Pence's vote was the first by a vice president to break a 50-50 tie on a Cabinet nomination.

Despite the win, DeVos emerged bruised from the highly divisive nomination fight. Opposed by half the Senate, she faced criticism, even ridicule for lack of experience and confusion during her confirmation hearing. At one point, she said some schools should have guns because of the threat of grizzly bears.

And there has been scathing opposition from teachers unions and civil rights activists over her support of charter schools and her conservative religious ideology.

President Donald Trump accused Democrats of seeking to torpedo education progress. In a tweet before the vote, he wrote, "Betsy DeVos is a reformer, and she

is going to be a great Education Sec. for our kids!"

DeVos was sworn in hours after the Senate vote by Pence, who told the new Cabinet member: "I wasn't just voting for you. Having seen your devotion to improving the quality of education for some of our most vulnerable children across the nation for so many years, I was also casting a vote for America's children."

"I can tell you, my vote for Betsy DeVos was the easiest vote I ever cast," Pence said.

DeVos released a statement promising to be "a tireless advocate for all students."

"Partnering with students, parents, educators, state and local leaders, Congress and all stakeholders, we will improve education options and outcomes across America," she said.

She now takes the helm of a department charged with implementing laws affecting the nation's public schools with no direct experience with traditional public schools. Her opponents noted that she has no experience running public schools, nor has she attended one or sent her children to one.

She also will have to ad-

dress several hot-button issues in higher education, such as rising tuition costs, growing student debt and the troubled for-profit colleges, many of which have closed down, leaving students with huge loans and without a good education or job prospects.

Close attention also will be paid to how DeVos deals with sexual assault and freedom of speech on campuses.

Ahead of Tuesday's vote, emotions ran high as constituents jammed senators' phone lines. Protesters gathered outside the Capitol, including one person in a grizzly bear costume to ridicule DeVos.

Democrats and labor unions vigorously fought the nomination, suggesting that DeVos would defund traditional public schools by diverting taxpayers' money to charter and private institutions. They cited her financial interest in organizations pushing for charter schools, though she has said she will divest those interests.

Collins and Murkowski said they feared her focus on charter schools will undermine remote public schools in their states.

"President Trump's swamp got a new billionaire today," the Democratic National

Committee said in a statement. "Millions of teachers, parents and students could not have made their opposition to Betsy DeVos' confirmation any clearer—they do not want someone whose only education experience is dismantling public schools."

DeVos supporters, however, saw her confirmation as an occasion to breathe new life into a troubled American school system and a chance to shift power from Washington to the local level.

"She has been a leader in the movement for public charter schools - the most successful reform of public education during the last 30 years," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, the chairman of the Education Committee. "And she has worked tirelessly to help low-income children have more choices of better schools."

DeVos has her work cut out.

"She will have to make it a priority to reach out to educators and education policy makers to reassure them that she is committed to working to improve education for all students including the vast majority who attend and will continue to attend traditional public schools," said Martin West, associate professor of education at Harvard University. "My view is that she is committed to doing that."

Tornadoes touch down, wreak havoc in southern Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The tornadoes that struck southeastern Louisiana on Tuesday injured about 20 people, destroyed homes and businesses, flipped cars and trucks, and left about 10,000 customers without power, but no deaths were reported, the governor said.

Gov. John Bel Edwards took an aerial tour and made a disaster declaration before meeting with officials in New Orleans. The worst damage was in the same 9th Ward that was so heavily flooded in Hurricane Katrina.

Edwards, a Democrat, said he was heartbroken to see some of the same people suffering again, and promised that the state will provide the affected citizens with the resources they need as quickly as possible.

He said seven parishes were hit by tornadoes in an afternoon of tumultuous weather across southeastern Louisiana.

Hatchet-wielding firefighters walked up and down the debris-strewn Chef Menteur Highway after the storm, looking for anyone missing or trapped. Their primary search came up empty, and a secondary search was planned to make sure and to better assess the damage.

Edwards said he called in the Louisiana National Guard to

police and secure the area, and urged people to stay away.

"This is not a time to sight-see," he said.

The storm ripped apart homes, toppled a gas station canopy, snapped tall power poles and flipped a food truck upside-down. It left shards of metal hanging from trees, and trapped a truck driver as power lines wrapped around his cab.

The wall of severe weather also delivered heavy rain and hail to Mississippi and Alabama.

Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the White House was monitoring the weather's impact, and that President Donald Trump would be reaching out to local and state officials.

Yoshekia Brown lost everything to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Now she's lost everything again: Three-quarters of her home in eastern New Orleans collapsed.

"Sister, your house is gone," her brother told her as she drove home.

She didn't believe it until she saw it herself.

"I lived in between two blighted properties. One of those would have been gone before my house," she said. "It's just gone. Like the movie Twister."

Asia

PH leader angrily scolds 228 police officers on TV

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte berated more than 200 policemen accused of a variety of offenses, threatening on national television Tuesday that he would send them to a southern island to fight militants dreaded for beheading captives.

Duterte's expletive-filled outburst against the officers at Manila's presidential palace was his latest tirade against a police force that he has called "rotten to the core." He recently banned the national police from carrying out his anti-drug campaign after a group of officers used the crackdown as a cover to kidnap and kill a South Korean man in an extortion scandal.

The 228 policemen from metropolitan Manila are accused of a range of administrative and criminal offenses, including extortion and illegal arrests. Some have tested positive for drug use, regional po-



AP
In this photo provided by the Presidential Photographers Division, Malacanang Palace, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, berates erring policemen during an audience at the Presidential Palace grounds in Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2017

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bomber strikes Afghan Supreme Court, killing 19

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber struck an entrance to Afghanistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday, killing at least 19 people in the latest in a series of attacks on the country's judiciary. The attacker was on foot, and targeted a side door as court employees and other people were exiting the building in downtown Kabul, the Interior Ministry said. Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz said 41 people were wounded, including 10 in critical condition. No one immediately claimed the attack, which bore the hallmarks of the Taliban. The insurgents have been at war with the U.S.-backed government for 15 years and have increasingly targeted the judiciary since the execution of six convicted insurgents last May.

15,000 residents lose homes in Manila shantytown fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—About 15,000 residents of a shantytown beside Manila's port have lost their homes in a fire that raged overnight before being put out Wednesday morning, officials said. Fire department officials said 1,000 homes were gutted in the sprawling Parola Compound, where several families often share tiny houses running along narrow alleyways. Fire offi-

cer Edilberto Cruz said seven people suffered minor injuries in the fire that broke out Tuesday night then quickly spread. No fatalities were reported. Three evacuation centers were opened, and food and water are being provided to the 3,000 families who lost their homes, said welfare officer Regina Jane Mata.

Australian sentenced to death in Thailand for drug killing

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)—A Thai court has sentenced an Australian man to death for the murder of a countryman who was an alleged confederate in a drug smuggling gang. The Pattaya Provincial Court on Tuesday found Antonio Bagnato, 28, guilty of killing former Hells Angels member Wayne Schneider in November 2015 after he and accomplices beat and kidnapped the victim from his luxury villa in the resort area. Bagnato fled to Cambodia where he was arrested soon after the crime. Eyewitness accounts and DNA evidence from bloodstains and weapons linked Bagnato to the crime. American Tyler Gerard, 22, who confessed to involvement in the abduction and aided police, was sentenced to three years imprisonment. Thai police say Bagnato murdered Schneider because of a dispute over their drug trafficking.

lice spokeswoman Inspector Kimberly Molitas said.

Duterte, a longtime crime-busting city mayor and government prosecutor who ran after erring policemen and soldiers before he rose to the presidency last June, said he had wanted to punish the policemen by ordering them to clear the murky Pasig River by the presidential palace of water lilies, but that the river was clear of lilies.

So he ordered them instead to prepare in two weeks for a two-year deployment to Basilan Island, the birthplace of the brutal Abu Sayyaf extremist group, where he said some police stations have been blown up by the terrorists.

Chinese judge says Trump is an enemy 'of the rule of law'

BEIJING (AP)—A judge in China's top court has labeled Donald Trump an enemy "of the rule of law" over his insults directed at a U.S. judge who temporarily blocked the president's travel ban, saying Trump had set a poor example as head of the world's leading democracy.

Supreme People's Court Judge He Fan's blog post came after Trump went on Twitter on Saturday to denigrate James Robart as a "so-called judge" whose "ridiculous" decision opened the country to potential terror attacks.

In his post, dated Sunday, He wrote that under the U.S. system's separation of powers, a president who is dealt a judicial defeat should bear the loss silently rather than lash

"If you survive, come back here," Duterte told the policemen, who were made to stand in the sun before him outside the Malacanang palace. "If you die there, I'll tell the police not to spend to bring you here and just bury you there."

Duterte said the policemen can opt to resign but warned them about getting involved in criminal syndicates like some former police and military personnel.

"I will create a battalion just to keep track of your movements because it has been the sad experience of this country that the most vicious criminals are mostly ex-police or sometimes, ex-military men," he told the policemen, their heads

bowed, threatening them with death if they venture into crime.

"Sorry, I won't think twice, you would really be the ones to go down in extrajudicial killings," said Duterte, who stood beside top police officials.

Some rogue policemen have mulcted street vendors and ordinary Filipinos, while others have killed drug dealers, seized and sold their methamphetamine, a strongly addictive stimulant locally known as shabu, then pocketed the money, Duterte said.

"If you're mad at me, wait until my presidency ends, then let's go into a gunbattle," said the president, who started his

six-year term in June.

Duterte abruptly ended his talk to lead a Cabinet meeting, but asked the policemen to wait for him under the sun.

More than 7,000 suspected drug dealers and addicts had been killed in Duterte's anti-drug crackdown before he prohibited the 170,000-strong police force from serving as the main enforcer of the campaign last week amid the scandal over the South Korean businessman's murder.

Troops will be tapped to temporarily replace the policemen, Duterte said, prompting human rights groups to express alarm due to what they say is the military's equally notorious image.

Court Justice Antonin Scalia following his death last year.

He said Trump had set a poor example and lost respect for having "led the way in insulting a judge, with the vice president and his political party swarming to his defense (and) in a country known as the most democratic and most respectful of the rule of law."

"The president who would curse a judge and the thug who would kill a judge are both public enemies of the rule of law," He wrote, referencing the recent murder of a retired judge in southern China.

"Who cares that you control the armed forces and have nuclear weapons at your disposal. Your dignity has been swept away and you are no different than a scoundrel,"

He wrote.

Trump had been considered by many in China as preferable to Democratic Party candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was seen as taking a harder line toward Beijing. However, Trump has also raised concerns over his comments on Taiwan, trade and other issues seen as diverging from long-established U.S. policy toward China.

The divisive U.S. presidential campaign and seeming chaos of Trump's first three weeks in office have also provided the ruling Communist Party with new grist for its claims that China's authoritarian one-party system is the best way for the country to ensure economic growth and social stability.

World

Russia denies involvement in airstrike on Idlib

BEIRUT (AP)—Airstrikes on a rebel-held city in Syria early Tuesday killed at least 15 people, wounded dozens more and demolished several buildings, in one of the deadliest attacks since a cease-fire went into effect last year, Syrian activists and medics said.

The airstrikes hit the city of Idlib, the capital of a northwestern province of the same name that is almost entirely controlled by Syrian rebels and al-Qaida-linked insurgents.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 26 people were killed, including 10 civilians—mostly women. The opposition-run Civil Defense in Idlib says 15 bodies were pulled from the rubble and that 30 people were taken for medical treatment. Conflicting casualty tolls are common in the chaotic aftermath of such attacks.

Opposition activists also reported airstrikes on several suburbs of the capital, Damascus.

The government and the opposition have repeatedly traded accusations of violating the cease-fire, which was brokered by Russia and Turkey and went into effect in December, shortly after the government recaptured the northern city of Aleppo.

The Observatory said it was not clear if the airstrikes were carried out by Syrian, Russian or the U.S.-led coalition that has been targeting the Islamic



This photo released on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017 by the Edlib Media Center, an opposition activist media collective, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a vehicle that was hit an aerial attack in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib.

When asked about the cease-fire, Assad said “it’s not dead, and it’s natural in every cease-fire anywhere in the world, in every war, in any conflict, to have these breaches.”

Syria’s conflict, which began with a 2011 uprising against the Assad family’s four-decade rule, has killed an estimated 300,000 people and destroyed much of the country. The U.N. has estimated that reconstruction will cost around \$350 billion.

State group and al-Qaida’s affiliate in Syria.

The Russian military denied that its warplanes have attacked Idlib. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said that Russian warplanes haven’t conducted a single strike on Idlib this year.

The United Nations on Tuesday called on all parties to the Syrian war to seek an end to the bloodshed.

We deplore the loss of civilian life there as we have in other parts of Syria as the conflict rages,” U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at U.N.

headquarters in New York. “As we see continuing civilian deaths it should redouble everyone’s determination to reach a political agreement.”

Russia has waged an air campaign in Syria since September 2015, providing a crucial boost for Assad’s forces in battles with extremist groups as well as the mainstream opposition.

The airstrikes came a day after Syrian President Bashar Assad said the European Union should have no role in the reconstruction of Syria unless it changes its policy toward the country. He said

European countries which support “terrorists” in Syria “cannot destroy and build at the same time.” Assad’s government views all those fighting against it as terrorists.

In the same interview, given to Belgian media on Monday, Assad said U.S. President Donald Trump’s vows to fight terrorism were “promising” but that it’s still too early to “expect anything” on the ground. He welcomed the possibility of increased cooperation between the U.S. and his close ally Russia, saying it would be “positive for the rest of the world, including Syria.”

After court victory, Egypt rights lawyer eyes presidency bid

CAIRO (AP)—The congratulatory bouquet of flowers sitting in Khaled Ali’s austere downtown Cairo office has withered away, but the writing on the attached card is clear: “Tiran and Sanafir are Egyptian.”



and pro-democratic forces after years of defeat and disarray under a crackdown.

“Of course, I am a likely candidate, but I have yet to make a final decision,” he told The Associated Press in an interview.

It’s a reference to the court victory that brought to prominence the rights lawyer who was a leading player in Egypt’s 2011 uprising but was little noticed outside his leftist circles when he ran for president in 2012.

With a suit he and other lawyers led last year, Ali succeeded in blocking the government’s plan to hand over two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

The court ruling, upheld on appeal in January, was an unexpected setback to President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who had promised the oil-rich kingdom the islands of Tiran and Sanafir in an agreement last year. It gave Ali the shine of a defender of the country’s integrity among the many who opposed the handover.

Now Ali is considering running again in elections next year to challenge el-Sissi, the former general who came to office in 2014 in a landslide, riding on the support for his fierce crackdown on Islamists. Ali’s candidacy would be a long shot, but the 44-year-old sees it as a way to breathe some life into Egypt’s leftist, revolutionary

He said consultations are underway among “democratic and social forces” - his term for those behind the 2011 uprising and its supporters—to formulate a joint position on the election and consider whether to field a candidate or boycott. He said that his chief concern is the “legal and constitutional” environment of the vote, which is due in the summer of 2018.

Ali has been a key figure among the small but vibrant core of mostly young pro-democracy and secular activists known loosely as the “revolutionaries.” They were the main force behind the 18-day uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

For a brief window after his fall, they were celebrated in Egypt. But they failed to present a cohesive political force. The military took over after Mubarak’s fall and pushed an election process that led to the Muslim Brotherhood winning the presidency and dominance in parliament. Ali came in seventh in the initial round of voting in the 2012 election.

Israeli allies condemn settlement law as lawsuits loom

JERUSALEM (AP)—A new Israeli law legalizing dozens of unlawfully built West Bank settlement outposts came under heavy criticism on Tuesday from some of Israel’s closest allies, as local rights groups prepared to ask the Supreme Court to overturn the measure.

Amid the uproar, the Trump administration remained quiet about the law—paving the way for further possible action by emboldened Israeli hard-liners ahead of a trip to the White House by Israel’s prime minister next week.

The law was “a first step in a series of measures that we must take in order to make our presence in Judea and Samaria present for years, for decades, for ages,” Israeli Cabinet Minister Yariv Levin said, using the biblical name for the West Bank. “I do believe that our right over our fatherland is something that cannot be denied.”

The law, passed late Monday, sets out to legalize dozens of West Bank settler outposts built on privately owned

Palestinian land. Proponents claimed the communities, home to thousands of people and in some cases decades old, were built in “good faith” and quietly backed by a string of Israeli governments.

But critics said the law amounts to legalized land theft. They also said it is legally problematic by imposing Israeli law on occupied land that is not sovereign Israeli territory and where its Palestinian residents do not have citizenship or the right to vote.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank and east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, as parts of a future independent state. Most of the international community considers Israeli settlements illegal and counterproductive to peace. Some 600,000 Israelis now live in the two areas.

In Paris, Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said the law puts “the last nail in the coffin of the two-state solution” and accused the Israeli government of “trying to legalize looting Palestinian land.”

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed “deep regret” over the bill, saying it was “in contravention of international law and will have far-reaching legal consequences for Israel.”

“The secretary-general insists on the need to avoid any action that would derail the two-state solution,” spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Some of Israel’s closest allies, including Germany, Britain and the Czech Republic, also condemned the legislation.

Germany’s Foreign Ministry said its faith in Israel’s commitment to a two-state solution was “deeply shaken.” Britain’s minister for the Middle East, Tobias Ellwood, said the law “damages Israel’s standing with its international partners.”

Jordan, a key Arab ally, said such “provocative acts” could “fuel the anger of Muslims and drag the region to more violence and extremism.”

Turkey’s tourism minister, Nabi Avci, visiting Israel as part of a reconciliation process, said he hoped Israel’s

Supreme Court would make the “right decision” and strike down the law.

Prominent Israeli advocacy groups, including Peace Now, the Arab rights group Adalah, and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, all announced plans to file legal challenges.

“There’s going to be a legal battle against this bill,” said Lior Amihai, spokesman for Peace Now.

Legal experts say the law is problematic and Israel’s attorney general has said he will not defend it in court. Netanyahu has also expressed misgivings, reportedly saying it could drag Israel into international legal prosecution, though in the end he agreed to support it. In December, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution declaring settlements illegal.

Netanyahu missed Monday’s vote because he was flying back from a visit to Britain.

The International Criminal Court in the Hague already is conducting a preliminary investigation into Israeli settlement policy.

Environment

Why are these birds falling from the sky in South Jersey?

By JACQUELINE L. URGO
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

SHILOH, N.J.—Weather-wise, it had been a fairly typical November day, two days before Thanksgiving, in the western Cumberland County agricultural community of Stow Creek Township—mostly sunny, with a bit of a nip in the air.

Then, all of a sudden, it was raining dead birds.

And by the time the brief “shower” was over, as many as 200 red-winged blackbirds littered the ground in a small housing development off Frank Davis Road surrounded by vast farm fields.

“They just fell from the sky,” said Larry Hajna, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It was the second time in less than three weeks that a die-off of blackbirds had occurred in the same rural neighborhood; the first time, a couple of dozen dead birds were found. A similar incident had happened in a North Jersey farming area earlier in the year, Hajna said.

After county agricultural agents had been notified by homeowners, the DEP’s Division of Fish and Wildlife arrived in Stow Creek and removed the birds, collecting some of them to be sent to a state lab for necropsy, toxicology, and histopathology tests.

But the results of all the tests were inconclusive, Hajna said last week.

“We did ascertain that the birds suffered trauma and internal bleeding from hitting the ground,” Hajna said. “But what made them fall from the sky in the first place ... we can’t say for certain.”

Even wheat seed from a nearby farmer’s field was collected and tested for chemical compounds by the University of Pennsylvania. The farmer told the DEP’s Bureau of Pesticides that the seed had been treated with the fungicides difenoconazole, mefenoxam and sedaxane, and the insecticide imidacloprid. None of those compounds is considered harmful to birds and none of the chemicals was found to be among those that are sometimes used by farmers to control “nuisance” species like blackbirds, Hajna said.

And while animals falling from the sky is not a usual occurrence, it does happen across the globe: Besides birds, fish and frogs seem to be the most common.

A red-winged blackbird is nestled among the brush along the Lynch Reservoir at the Lynch Canyon open spaces in Solano County, Calif. TNS



In 1998, about 10,000 birds, all Lapland longspurs, rained down and died on fields in Minnesota and Iowa after they became disoriented in a snowstorm. Fish can sometimes get caught up in whirlwinds and in meteorological waterspouts and can be carried great distances, such as in 2010, when some striped bass ended up in a Massachusetts backyard about 20 miles from the seacoast.

While it is not illegal in New Jersey for farmers to attempt to protect their crops and control populations of

such species as blackbirds, crows, grackles and magpies, agriculturists must follow certain protocols in using such chemical compounds so that the usage does not damage crops, contaminate feed for livestock, create groundwater hazards, or in any way effect endangered and threatened species of animals and plants.

Populations of red-winged blackbirds are robust, and they are not considered a threatened or endangered species. They are therefore exempt from state and fed-

eral regulations that protect some migratory birds, officials said.

Birding officials said habitat loss globally poses a much greater threat to all bird species than do incidents of bird

die-offs.

Hajna said the state ultimately ruled out that the kill-off was caused pesticide poisoning because of the “highly localized nature” of the mortalities. The bird deaths also

were not likely caused by compounds reported in wheat seeds planted in an agricultural field, nor were they the result of infectious disease.

“We have determined that the deaths were not caused by pesticides commonly known to be toxic to wildlife and not likely caused by compounds reported in wheat seed planted in an agricultural field,” Hajna said.

A similar die-off occurred in nearby Millville in 2012, and it was later determined that a farmer had legally used a chemical to keep blackbirds from his crop. About 300 birds were reported dead in that incident, Hajna said.

But the dead birds falling from the sky here last month has left some residents here worried about the cause.

“Out in the country like this, you find dead stuff lying around all the time ... but this was kind of weird,” said resident Debbie Hitchner, 32, who said she found a half-dozen of the dead blackbirds in her Frank Davis Road backyard after the incident was reported. “My dog just kept finding them, one after the other.”

10TH AND 40TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED

Rosalia Salas Concepcion
and
Maximo Soo Concepcion

We, the family of the late †**Rosalia Salas Concepcion** and †**Maximo Soo Concepcion**, would like to invite all our families, and friends to join us as we commemorate the 40th and 10th Year Death Anniversary of our parents / grandparents.

Mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Parish at 6:00 A.M on Friday, February 10th. Breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank you — Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

In Loving Memory of

HENRY TAIMANAO INDALECIO

In his new life, he now joins his:
Wife: †Ana Sablan Indalecio

His loving memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:
Parents: Alberto Palacios / Magdalena Taimanao Indalecio
Children: Linda/Winford Tullis
Rita Woody
Edwin Joseph / Alma Indalecio
Henry Jr. Indalecio
†Albert / Xiao Yan Chen Indalecio
Maria / Ray Moreno
†Thomas / Minda Indalecio
Brenda Indalecio

GrandChildren: Edward Indalecio / Gavino Indalecio / Elani I. Sparkman
John Paul Maranda / Shawn & Terrell Tullis
Sabra W. Davies
Ann I. Stiers / Ritalynn & Edwin Jr. Indalecio
Thomas, April Zhu, Yvonne & Jasmine Indalecio
Mariah Daniel / Joeray Miranda
Mary Jane Indalecio / Harmony Kanahele
Joe Henry & Tasha Indalecio

Great GrandChildren: Edward Jr. Indalecio / Akila & Tevai Indalecio / Deshana Indalecio / Maurice & Avalynn Sparkman / Shamere Tullis / Alistair Davies / Brianne Stiers
Orlando / John & Mark Santos
Robert Milliora / Leila Kanahele Keuma / Eklou Robinson

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm.
His funeral will be held on Saturday, February 11th, 2017 at San Antonio Church.
Public viewing is 7:30am - 10:00am.
Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00am followed immediately by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you very much, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Family

Life & Style

Woman captive for decade hopes new TV role helps the missing

CLEVELAND (AP)—A woman who escaped a home where she and two others were held captive for a decade is joining a Cleveland television station to bring attention to other missing-persons cases in a daily segment.

As the new host of the segment on WJW-TV, Amanda Berry said she wants to help

locate missing people and support their families.

“When I was missing, the people who were looking for me never gave up,” she said. “My wish is that this segment will not only help find those who are missing but offer hope for the loved ones who are looking for them.”

The segment will air on

news broadcasts throughout the day. Berry, 30, will discuss details of a different northeastern Ohio missing-person case each day and talk about how viewers can help the families of the missing and the investigators searching for them.

Berry, who disappeared a day before her 17th birthday in 2003, has become an advo-

cate for the missing since she escaped her captor’s shuttered home in May 2013 and made a dramatic call to authorities: “Help me! I’m Amanda Berry. I’ve been kidnapped, and I’ve been missing for 10 years, and I’m here. I’m free now.”

Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight had been abused and held by Ariel Cas-

tro for years. Berry also had given birth to Castro’s daughter in 2006.

Berry and DeJesus wrote a book together about their ordeals. Knight, who legally changed her name to Lily Rose Lee, wrote a separate book about her experience.

Castro, who kidnapped the victims between 2002 to 2004,

hanged himself in his cell after he pleaded guilty to a long list of charges and was sentenced to life plus 1,000 years in prison.

Berry said her life now is full of normal activities like grocery shopping, dealing with her daughter’s school and appointments, and spending time with family.



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rosie O’Donnell: ‘Available’ to play Steve Bannon on SNL

NEW YORK (AP)—On the heels of actress Melissa McCarthy’s caustic portrayal of White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer on “Saturday Night Live,” comedienne Rosie O’Donnell says she’s available to play President Donald Trump’s controversial adviser Steve Bannon. On her Twitter feed Monday night, O’Donnell responded to suggestions that she play Bannon by saying “available—if called I will serve.” McCarthy lampooned Spicer last weekend in a “Saturday Night Live” sketch where she taunted reporters as “losers,” fired a water gun at the press corps and used the lectern to ram a Wall Street Journal journalist. O’Donnell and Trump have publicly feuded in the past, with Trump making

derogatory comments about O’Donnell’s looks and weight.

Rushdie novel takes on age of Obama, and Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Salman Rushdie’s next novel will be a take on the age of Obama, with an added dash of Trump. The author best known for “Midnight’s Children” and “The Satanic Verses” is working on a narrative set against “the panorama” of American life since Barack Obama’s arrival at the White House in 2009. The novel is called “The Golden House” and is scheduled for September. According to Random House, which announced the book Tuesday, Rushdie will reflect on everything from the Tea Party and identity politics to the rise of a certain “media-savvy villain” with unusually colored hair (Donald Trump).

Rushdie’s previous novels also include “The Moor’s Last Sigh,” “Fury” and “Shalimar the Clown.”

Stephen King and son Owen King to team up at book convention

NEW YORK (AP)—This year’s BookExpo will feature a popular father-and-son combination: Stephen and Owen King. Convention organizers ReedPop told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the authors will be featured at a June 1 breakfast at the Jacob Javits Center in New York. They will be promoting “Sleeping Beauties,” a novel they worked on together. Other scheduled speakers at the event, hosted by comedian-actress Whitney Cummings, are astronaut Scott Kelly, “Black-ish” creator Kenya Barris and prize-winning authors Jesmyn Ward and Claire Messud. BookEx-

po, the publishing industry’s annual national convention, takes place May 31-June 2. According to ReedPop, King has never been a featured convention speaker before, although he has attended in the past. He is part of the literary music band the Rock Bottom Remainders, which played at the 1992 gathering.

Prince William calls for end to stigma on mental illness

LONDON (AP)—Prince William is speaking out about ending the stigma surrounding mental health treatment. William told a gathering of health writers in London on Monday that treating mental health with the same respect as physical health “should be the norm.” He calls the United Kingdom’s suicide rate among men under the age of 40 “an appalling stain on our

society.” William says telling someone when you can’t cope “is a positive step and a sign of strength, not weakness.” Mental health is the focus of Heads Together, a charity William leads with his wife, Kate, the duchess of Cambridge, and his brother, Prince Harry. The trio competed against each other in a 50-meter race on Sunday to promote the charity.

Kanye West deletes tweets on Trump, produces Trump dis track

Kanye West’s friendly relationship with President Donald Trump may have been short-lived. A Twitter defense of West’s meeting with Trump has been deleted from the rapper’s account. After meeting with the then president-elect at Trump Tower on Dec. 13, West explained in a series of tweets that he discussed “multicultural issues” with Trump, including violence in West’s hometown of Chicago. Those tweets have been deleted. Also, rapper King Myers says West produced his anti-Trump track, “Propaganda.” King Myers calls for Trump’s impeachment in the song. The rapper is signed to West’s G.O.O.D. Music label. In November, West told a crowd during a concert that he didn’t vote in the presidential election, but he would have voted for Trump. (AP)

Obamas join Richard Branson for private island getaway

NECKER ISLAND, British Virgin Islands (AP)—Former President Barack Obama, and his wife, Michelle, have spent some time vacationing with Richard Branson since leaving the White House. The Virgin Group founder put up a blog post with pictures and video of the ex-president kitesurfing off one of Branson’s private islands in the British Virgin Islands. Branson writes that Obama, who’s a native of Hawaii, told him he was prevented from surfing by his security detail during his time in office. Branson says after spending a couple days learning to kitesurf,

Obama bested the billionaire in a watersport challenge. He says inviting the Obamas to his island was “a huge honor.” Obama spent his first days after leaving Washington vacationing in Palm Springs, California.

Elton John: George Michael was ‘kindest, most generous man’

Elton John says his late friend and fellow Brit George Michael was one of the best vocalists in the world. John paid tribute to Michael during his Beats 1 Radio show Monday, calling him one of Britain’s “most brilliant songwriters.” John and Michael famously collaborated on the 1991 version of John’s classic “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me.” But John says they had been friends for years before the duet. He says he knew Michael when he was the lead singer of Wham! and played at the band’s last concert at London’s Wembley Stadium in 1986. John calls Michael “the kindest, most generous man.” He says he’ll miss Michael’s humanity most of all. Michael died at his England home at age 53 on Christmas Day.

KatyCats rejoice! Katy Perry returns to Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katy Perry is returning to the Grammy Awards to the delight of fans who have been waiting to hear new music from the pop singer whose last album, “Prism,” came out in 2013. The Recording Academy also announced Tuesday that Grammy nominees Kelsea Ballerini and Lukas Graham will perform Sunday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The show will air on CBS at 8 p.m. Eastern. Grammy nominee Demi Lovato, Andra Day, Tori Kelly and country group Little Big Town will collaborate on a performance honoring the music of the Bee Gees and the 40th anniversary of “Saturday Night Fever.” Previously announced performers include Adele, Bruno Mars, the Weeknd, Daft Punk, A Tribe Called Quest and Alicia Keys.



UNUSUAL WORK

One of the largest and most unusual paintings by surrealist master Rene Magritte is shown at New York’s Christie’s auction house, Monday Feb. 6, 2017. “La Corde Sensible” (“Heartstrings”) will be up for sale with an estimated price of 14 million pounds (\$17.5 million) in London on Feb. 28.

AP

LONDON (AP)—Inspired by his belief that human beings are essentially terrified of robots, Ben Russell set about charting the evolution of automatons for an exhibition he hopes will force people to think about how androids and other robotic forms can enhance their lives.

Robots, says Russell, have been with us for centuries—as “Robots,” his exhibit opening Wednesday at London’s Science Museum, shows.

From a 15th century Spanish clockwork monk who kisses his rosary and beats his breast in contrition, to a Japanese “childoid” newsreader, created in 2014 with lifelike facial expressions, the exhibition tracks the development of robotics and mankind’s obsession with replicating itself.

Arnold Schwarzenegger’s unstoppable Terminator cyborg is there, as is Robby the Robot, star of the 1956 film “Forbidden Planet,” representing the horror and the fantasy of robots with minds of their own.

There are also examples of factory production-line machines blamed for taking people’s jobs in recent decades; a “telenoid communications android” for hugging during long-distance phone calls to ease loneliness; and Kaspar, a “minimally expressive social robot” built like a small boy

Exhibition charts 500 years of evolution of robots



AP
Animatronic baby London 2016, a mechanical human baby with an electronic umbilical cord is displayed, during a press preview for the Robot exhibition held at the Science Museum in London, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017.

in five different historic periods in a show that explores how religion, industrialization, pop culture and visions of the future have shaped society.

For Rich Walker, managing director of Shadow Robot Company in London, robotics is about what these increasingly sophisticated machines can do for humans to make life easier, particularly for the elderly or the impaired.

“I’m naturally lazy and got involved so that I could get robots to do things for me,” Walker said. His company has developed a robotic hand that can replicate 24 of the 27 natural movements of the human hand.

As humans have a 1 percent failure rate at repetitive tasks, committing errors about once every two hours, the hand could replace humans on production lines, he said.

Walker concedes further erosion of certain types of jobs if inventions such as his are successful, but says having repetitive tasks performed by automatons would free up people to adopt value-added roles.

“The issue is to rebuild the economy so that it has a holistic approach to employment,” he said.

This in turn leads to questions, raised at the exhibition as well as by the European Union, of whether or not robots should pay taxes on the value of their output as part of the new industrial revolution.

and designed to help ease social interactions for children

with autism.

“When you take a long

view, as we have done with 500 years of robots, robots

haven’t been these terrifying things, they’ve been magical, fascinating, useful, and they generally tend to do what we want them to do,” said Russell, who works at the science museum and was the lead curator of the exhibition.

And while it’s human nature to be worried in the face of change, Russell said, the exhibit should help people “think about what we are as humans” and realize that if robots are “going to come along, you’ve got a stake in how they develop.”

A total of 100 robots are set

Lady A would like Taylor Swift to write a song for them, too

HOUSTON (AP)—Taylor Swift has written hit songs for herself for years, but she recently lent her talent to others, from former boyfriend Calvin Harris to country act Little Big Town.

And now Grammy-winning country group Lady Antebellum wants the Swift-song treatment.

“I mean honestly Taylor, call us,” Hillary Scott said in

an interview Sunday. “Like, we’re up for whatever,” she added with a laugh. “Let’s go.”

Swift wrote “Better Man” for Little Big Town, and the tune topped the Billboard Hot country songs chart this month—bringing Swift’s name back to the country charts after launching her powerhouse pop career in 2014.

Charles Kelley of Lady A said they would maybe want

Swift to write “a nostalgic song ... we like nostalgic songs.”

And Kelley said there’s something else they want: a No. 1 smash.

“I hope it would be No. 1. That’s all I want,” he said. “It better go No. 1 though. If we cut a song and it goes like No. 2, I’m going to be so disappointed.”

Swift performed “Better Man” and “This Is What You Came For” at a pre-Super

Bowl concert this past weekend. The Harris track, which earned Swift a writing credit under alias Nils Sjoberg, features Rihanna. It peaked at No. 3 on Billboard’s Hot 100, giving Harris his highest placement on the chart as a lead artist.

Lady A recently released a new single, “You Look Good,” and their new album, “Heart Break,” comes out June 9.

Playmate spills the beans about the birds and the bees

DEAR ABBY: I had planned to wait until my daughter was 12 and in the sixth grade to teach her about sex. Unfortunately, she was given a very thorough, graphically described education by a playmate. At the time, her playmate was in second grade. My daughter was in the third grade. I was devastated. Not only did I feel she was too young, I felt robbed of an experience that should be cherished between a mother and daughter.

I strongly believe that parents should decide for themselves when to teach their children about sex, and the children should not have the experience forced upon them. The playmate’s parents like to think of themselves as progressive and nonconformist. When I confronted the mother, she deflected by becoming offended that I would assume they weren’t responsible parents. She defended her daughter by saying, “Kids will talk. I’m sure she wasn’t out to ruin your daughter’s world.” Am I wrong to be so offended?

OFFENDED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR OFFENDED: Yes. Children DO talk, and 12 is far too late for them to start learning about sex. By then they have probably received an abundance of misinformation about it from their friends. Children are naturally curious about the world around them. That’s why “the talk” should start as

soon as a child begins asking questions. The facts don’t have to be given all at once; the conversation should be ongoing, with more information added in an age-appropriate way.

DEAR ABBY: My “boyfriend” and I are in our mid-40s. Three-and-a-half years ago he was in a bad accident. Because our relationship seemed to be getting serious, he moved into my house. He was planning on returning to construction work a few months later, once his doctor cleared him. Unfortunately, the doctor said he would never be able to resume work in construction. He applied for Social Security Disability and, after two years of paperwork and waiting, he was denied.

He keeps himself busy by painting pictures. Occasionally he sells one or two paintings online or through art shows. However, what he earns is not nearly enough to support himself. I had to take a significant pay cut at work, and I’m having a hard time supporting both of us. My savings are being depleted, and my credit card balance is skyrocketing.

I have told him repeatedly that he needs to get a job. He’s not totally disabled. He could work—he just can’t go back to construction. He insists he’s going to make it big selling art. I tell him art is his hobby, not his career. I have also told him that I’m a financial wreck and that I’m going to lose my house, but he doesn’t care. He says, “Buy a smaller house.”

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I tell him he has to get a job or move out, but he doesn’t do either. I’m ready to sell my house and live in a small apartment by myself. But I can’t get him to leave. What can I do?

OVER THIS IN ILLINOIS

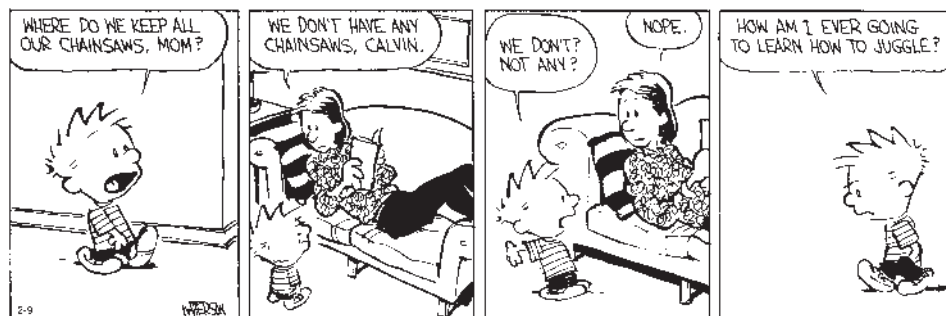
DEAR OVER THIS: Because this man has lived with you for so long, getting him out of there may take the help of a lawyer. He’s not an artist; he’s an ingrate and a free-loader. Although you are having financial difficulties right now, it will be money well spent. Please don’t wait.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

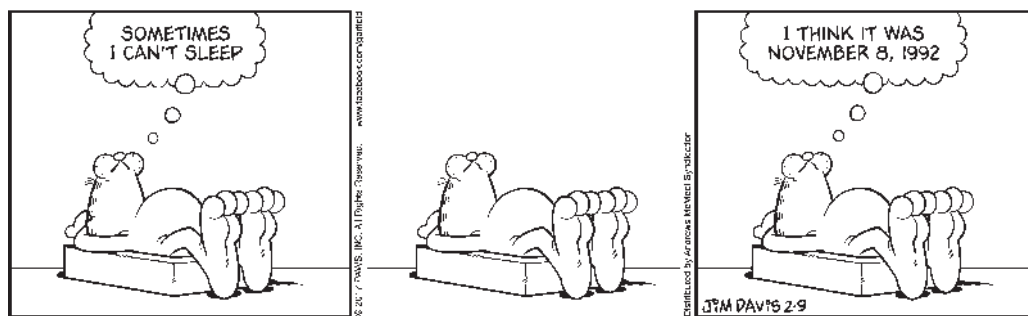
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



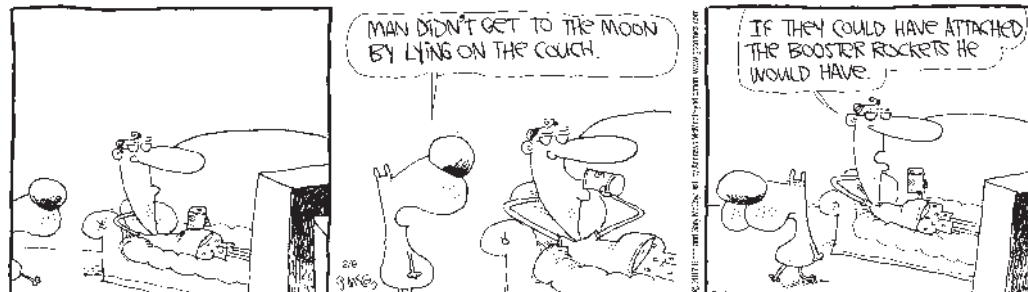
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poke
4 Call it a day
8 Garden intruder
12 Comic Philips
13 Radius neighbor
14 Not busy
15 Refuses to patronize
17 Valley
18 Cudgel
19 Footrest
21 Ornamental beetle
24 Evergreen tree
25 Writer Rand
26 Junior
28 Opening night
32 "Shane" star Alan
34 Jazzy style
36 Barrett or Jaffe
37 Follow
39 Prattle
41 Feminine principle

DOWN

1 Dubya's brother
2 I love (Lat.)
3 *NSYNC and
4 Sales goals
5 Last (Abbr.)
6 Division word
7 "Yum!"
8 Surviving spouse
9 Wax-coated cheese
10 Big name in scat
11 TV chef
12 Gun lobby org.
16 Jam ingredient?
17 Actor Danson
21 Shopper's delight
22 Printer's blue
23 Short do
27 Yule quaff
29 Father Flanagan's organization
30 One
31 Catches some rays
33 Bad golfers
35 Standard
38 Id counterpart
40 Raises
43 Avocation
45 Rainbow shape
46 Egg on
47 Lighten
48 On in years
49 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
53 Guffaw
54 Eg. and Syr., once
55 La-la lead-in

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyson Houseman, 27; Mia Farrow, 72; Joe Pesci, 74; Carole King, 75.

Happy Birthday: Using the element of surprise will serve you well. Keep whatever you are trying to accomplish a secret until you are ready to wow everyone. Your original way of going about personal and professional matters will hold people's interest. This is a year of change, so don't neglect to follow through and shoot for the stars. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 28, 32, 39, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved in physical activities that will give you an outlet for pent-up energy. Turn your angst into something constructive and you'll avoid putting yourself in a vulnerable position. Personal improvements and romance will alleviate trouble. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotions will surface along with unpredictable situations at home and at work. Take a moment to recap what's happened and consider your position before you respond. At times like this, it's best to let things play out naturally. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a trip or do some research online. You will discover valuable information that will help you achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes. Focus on looking and offering your best as well as engaging in a romantic adventure. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Too much of anything will lead to trouble. You'll find peace and enlightenment if you explore different cultures or lifestyles that can offer

you the type of tranquility that helps to stabilize and keep you calm and stress-free. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got everything going for you, so don't sit back when you should be moving forward. Put your plans into motion and make your ideas and solutions heard. Take a position of leadership and show everyone what you have to offer. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take a risk. Before engaging in a financial scheme, research the possibilities and make the necessary adjustments. Your high expectations will be reached if you rely on past experiences to make the right choice. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Live in the present, not the past. Once you start moving forward, you will find it much easier to achieve your goals. Thoughts and ideas combined with diligent action will lead to the results you've been dreaming about. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel or educational plans will give you the push you need to take on a creative venture. The mental and physical stimulation you get from being a participant will inspire you to trust your own instincts instead of following others. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone will use emotional tactics to try to get you to take on too much or to change the way you do things. Listen to your instincts and do what you believe is in your best interests. Use charm to get your way. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home and don't get into situations that require you to deal with institutions, government agencies or educational facilities. Problems with friends or relatives will surface. Keep a close eye on your health. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your passionate and exciting way of handling whatever comes your way will intrigue onlookers. Polish whatever you are working on and you will bring about positive changes. Personal improvements are encouraged. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be tempted to cut corners. There will be no way to bypass the details required in order to be successful. Slow down and do your best to aim for perfection. Don't get confused when choosing between quantity and quality. ★★★

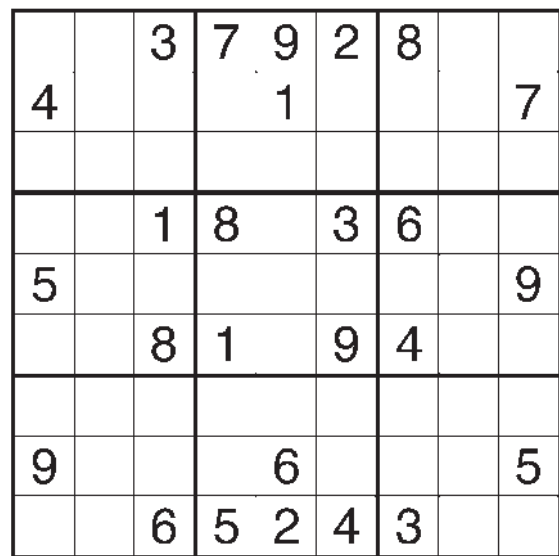
Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, outgoing and popular. You are unique and bold.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

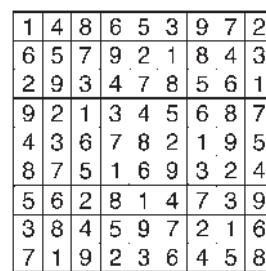
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2:09

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DEBBIE REYNOLDS (1932-2016)

Solution: 9 letters

A B B A D A B A E I R R A C N
F M U S I C T R A P E D B I D
R S R E G A T S H H D I A R E
A M B E W S E T T O L R A H C
N L A I S N L O T L E H A E A
N I N R E U M T I H C R N R R
I F K R Y N A E T I R W L U T
E N I X A M H N R Y O O E T A
K I S S T R I K S R T S A C R
T U N S I N K A B L E D D I E
I T H G I R B Y R R O H E P R
S T H G I L L A I A I U S C N
I E N U J L K S S E R D R I K
V I D N O M Y A R P E P E D F
S T A M M Y H O N E Y M O O N

©2017 Andrew McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/9

Aba Dabba, Billie, Bride, Bright, Burbank, Carrie, Cast, Charlotte's Web, Deck, Dress, Eddie, Films, Fisher, Frannie, Hamlet, Harry, Honeymoon, Irene, June, Karl, Kiss, Lead, Lights, Lour, Mary, Maxine, Molly Brown, Mother, Music, Nun, Pepe, Picture, Rat Race, Raymond, Richard, Singin' in the Rain, Skirts, Stage, Tammy, Todd, Trap, Unsinkable, Visit Yesterday's Answer: Commemorative

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

 **LOOKING FOR HOUSE**

Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay lump-sum. Look for Zheng at 287-7676.

GIG PARTNER'S, INC.
is looking for Marketing Assistant

College graduate of any business course with 2 years working experience. Knowledge of Marketing Segmentation, Marketing research, Coordination and project Management.

If interested and would like to know more on the qualifications and requirements, please send your request and resume through email: gingy7@gmail.com / Brymendozaj28@gmail.com or call tell # (670) 785-6536 & (670) 285-9456

share the power
of a wishSM

MAKE-A-WISHSM



"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive, ITC
Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org

 **Saipan Tribune**

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (1)


High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Cargo and Freight Agent (1)

Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 17, 2017.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

 **Marianas Medical Center**

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) Radiology Technician
Associate's degree in Radiology from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with two (2) years of relevant work experience as a Radiology Technician. Must have the ability to take, review, evaluate and operate X-Ray, Ultrasound, Mammogram and Echocardiogram equipment. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Radiology Technician in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment.

(1) Licensed Practical Nurse (part-time)
Associates degree from an accredited school of professional nursing with one (1) year of experience in a health care or medical setting. Must complete an LPN program from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE). Must pass US NCLEX-LPN and is licensed as an LPN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

(1) Midwife (part-time)
College graduate completion of accredited Midwifery training program approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with five (5) years of work experience in Midwifery. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Midwife in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment.

(1) Medical Coder & Biller
Must be a Certified Professional Coder (CPC), or a Certified Professional Coder Apprentice (CPC-A) with at least one (1) year of relevant work experience as a Medical Coder and Biller. Must have the ability to understand and assess medical diagnosis and procedure codes. Must be able to compile data, compute fees and charges and prepare claims and invoices for billing purposes. Must have the ability to provide education to physicians and other business personnel regarding medical coding.

(1) Accountant
Bachelor's degree in Accounting with three (3) years of accounting experience is required. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, excellent verbal and written communication skills, analytical and problem solving abilities, and the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment is also required. Experience working in a medical field setting is preferred.

Position closes at 5:00pm on Thursday, February 21, 2017.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. It should also include a valid Police Clearance of no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for some positions. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.

 **PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN**

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Applicants must have an Associate's Degree in Hospitality Management (may be foreign equivalency); Two (2) years related experience as hotel Assistant Front Office Manager. Supervises daily operations and staff of guest service and front desk / office department of the hotel located in Saipan, CNMI. Handles all guests' feedback, inquiries pertaining to hotel policies and services and resolves complaints. Attends weekly, monthly and annual management meetings. Send resume to Inter-Pacific Resorts (Saipan) Corp., P. O. Box 502370 Saipan, MP 96950.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, March 2nd, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Think tank

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS


Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS


Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

 **WHATZIT?**TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

 **cistern**

WHATZIT? © 2017 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrew McNeil Syrd canon

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Please call 235-NEWS

Find today's solution in classified section

Patriots take victory lap, parade Boston for Super Bowl win

BOSTON (AP)—Snow, rain and chilly temperatures didn't dampen the joy of New England Patriots fans exulting in their team's latest championship Tuesday.

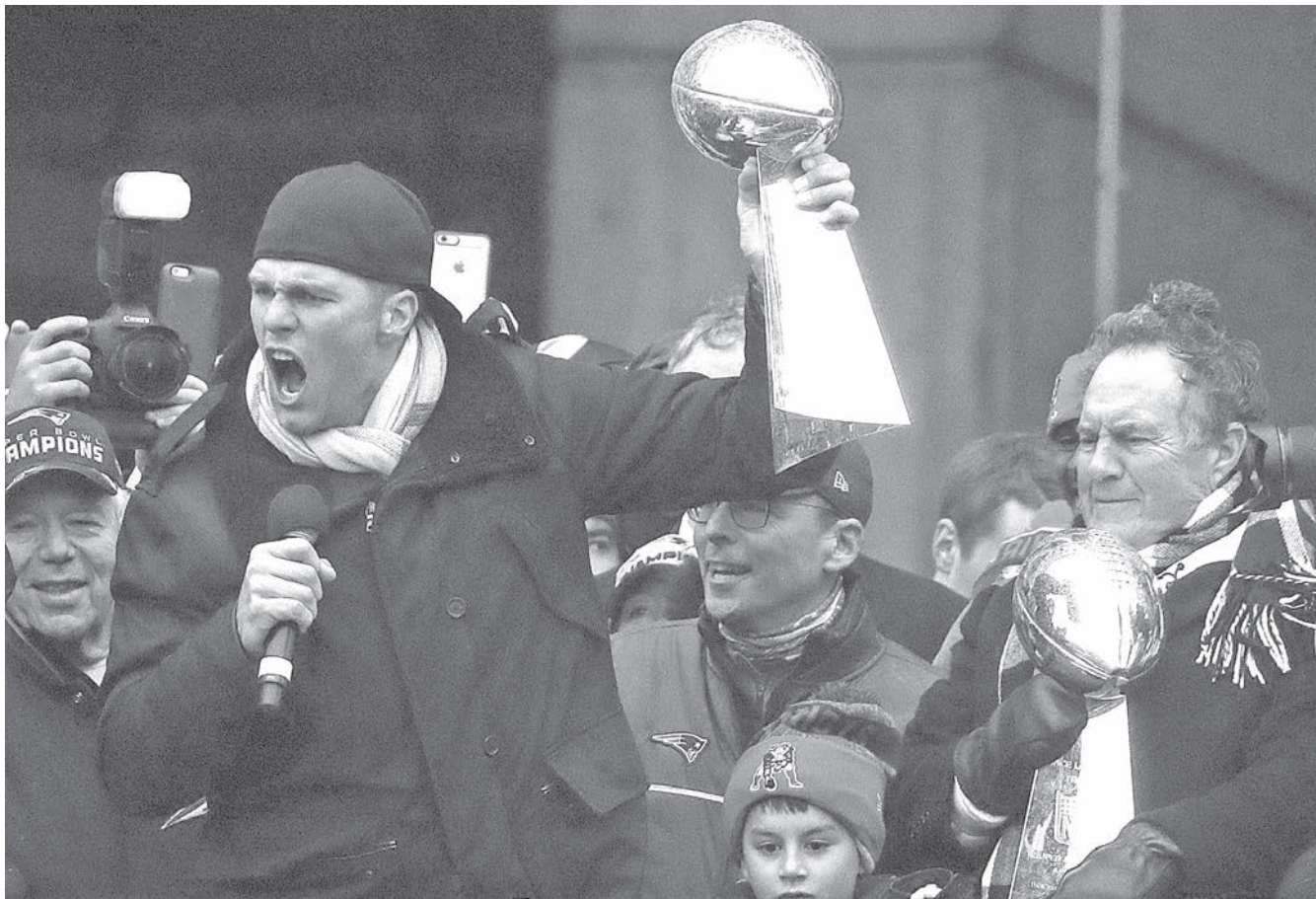
The five-time Super Bowl winners received a hero's welcome as they paraded through downtown Boston aboard World War II-era duck boats that have become a staple of the city's recent title celebrations.

Sounds of "Brady! Brady!" "TB12!" and "MVP" rang out throughout the procession as fans proudly wore No. 12 jerseys over thick parkas and sweaters, holding signs declaring star quarterback Tom Brady the G.O.A.T.—the greatest of all time.

Brady grinned and just took it all in, at one point tossing footballs back and forth with fans on the route as the duck boats rumbled along.

"We're going to remember this one for the rest of our lives and we know you will too," he shouted from a stage at the parade's end at City Hall. "I told you we were going to bring this sucker home and we brought it home!"

Cannons shot out red, white and blue confetti along the route, which started near the Boston Marathon finish line, where three spectators were killed and 260 others wounded in bombing attacks in April 2013. The route wound past famous city landmarks such as historic Faneuil Hall and the Boston Common.



Fans were still in disbelief over New England's stunning 34-28 comeback win in overtime against the Atlanta Falcons.

"We were all sweating bullets the whole time, and then we saw the best comeback in the world and the greatest thing we've ever seen," said James Mastrangelo, a Quincy, Massachusetts, resident decked out Mardi Gras-style, with a red, white and blue mask and Patriots sneakers, sweater, gloves and hat.

Phyllis Barone, of Saugus, Massachusetts, held up a large cardboard cutout of Brady and did her best to join the boisterous crowd in rowdy chants of "Go Pats." But her raspy, weakened voice betrayed her.

"Three days of cheering. I'm surprised I still have anything left," she said. "I'm a true die-hard fan."

Stephen Skobelev, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, said

he's tried to bring his two teenage children to as many championship parades as he can.

"For years and years and years we really didn't have anything but the Celtics," he said of the city's NBA team. "Every parade I get nervous that it will be the last one."

Along the route, Patriots players held up some of the team's five Lombardi trophies.

Fan favorite Rob Gronkows-

ki, who went down with an injury before the team's playoff run, energized the crowd with his typical Gronk antics. The tight end took off his shirt and chugged beers tossed up to the duck boats by fans, while other players held a wrestling championship-style belt over his head.

Some players waved black "Roger That" T-shirts showing fists with five championship rings as fans reciprocated with their own handmade signs deriding NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

AP
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and head coach Bill Belichick hold Super Bowl trophies during a rally Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017, in Boston to celebrate Sunday's 34-28 win over the Atlanta Falcons in the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game in Houston.

There's little love for Goodell in Patriots Nation after he handed Brady a four-game suspension at the start of the season for his role in the "Deflategate" scandal, a dispute that wound through federal court twice as the NFL found Brady responsible for using underinflated footballs during a playoff game in 2015.

Once again on Tuesday, the 39-year-old Brady was unquestionably the center of attention.

The crowd showered the MVP of Super Bowl 51 with chants of "MVP" and "We Want Six" as the snow, which fell in thick wet clumps most of the morning, broke just long enough for Brady and others to speak onstage.

Coach Bill Belichick said this year's team was the hardest working group he's ever coached.

"They came to work every day and there were no days off," he said.

The typically gruff, no-nonsense coach led the crowd of thousands, who likely skipped school or work to fete their team, in an impromptu chant: "No days off!"

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



The New England Patriots have some more catching up to do.

Bill Belichick hardly took time to relish the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history when he declared "in all honesty, we're five weeks behind in the 2017 season to most teams in this league."

After overcoming a 25-point deficit to win their fifth title, the Patriots will pick last in the NFL draft April 27 in Philadelphia. Last year, they were stripped of their first-round pick in the "Deflategate" ruling that included a September suspension for Super Bowl 51 MVP Tom Brady.

Cleveland had the worst record in the league at 1-15 and will pick first, followed by San Francisco, Chicago and Jacksonville. Among the possible top picks is Texas A&M edge rusher Myles Garrett, whom many project will follow in Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller's footsteps.

Between now and draft weekend, prospective rookies

Now attention turns to 2017 NFL offseason, draft

will be poked, prodded and peppered by NFL personnel. Some players will get extra scrutiny at the NFL combine in a month or on their pro days in March because of discipline issues or health concerns.

Some have already seen their stock slide based on poor decisions or plain bad luck, and others are steadily climbing all the mock drafts.

Two running backs who are projected high picks—Leonard Fournette of LSU and Christian McCaffrey of Stanford, skipped their bowl game a year after Notre Dame linebacker Jaylon Smith cost himself millions by blowing out his left knee in the Fiesta Bowl.

Smith was projected as a potential top-five pick before his injury, and instead went to the Dallas Cowboys in the second round with the 34th overall pick. The difference in guaranteed contract money is about \$19 million.

McCaffrey, the 2015 Heisman Trophy runner-up, sat out the Dec. 30 Sun Bowl between Stanford and North Carolina after an injury-marred 2016 season "so I

can begin my draft prep immediately." Three days later, Fournette said he would miss LSU's Citrus Bowl matchup with Louisville on Dec. 31 to rest an injured ankle.

Both would love to be like Dallas rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott, who led the Cowboys' turnaround from bottom-feeder to the NFC's top playoff seed. Elliott didn't like Fournette and McCaffrey bailing on their teammates, tweeting, "I would do anything to play one more time with my brothers in that scarlet and gray."

When others pointed out he skipped his senior season to enter the draft, Elliott tweeted: "there is a difference between not coming back for your last year and not finishing your last season."

Tell that to Jake Butt. Michigan's star tight end is this year's cautionary tale after tearing an ACL in the Wolverines' 33-32 loss to Florida State in the Orange Bowl.

Other college stars who will draw extra attention from teams trying to pry the Lombardi Trophy from Belichick and Brady:

JOE MIXON: The Oklahoma running back set the school's single-season record for all-purpose yards last season, but he was suspended for the 2014 season after punching a woman in the face. Mixon's lawyers released video in December of him breaking Oklahoma student Amelia Molitor's jaw and cheekbone in July 2014, and heavy criticism of Mixon and Sooners coach Bob Stoops followed. Mixon gave a tearful public apology a week later.

CHAD KELLY: The Ole Miss QB is both a character concern and a health risk. He was leading the SEC with 2,758 passing yards when he tore his right ACL and lateral meniscus and underwent surgery in November. His long list of off-the-field troubles include getting kicked off the Clemson team in 2015, an arrest after a bar fight in 2014 and sparking a brawl at his brother's high school football game. "I've made stupid mistakes in the past. I can't deny that," he said. "But ... I've learned from it."

SETH RUSSELL: Like

Kelly, Baylor's QB went to the Senior Bowl, where he sat in on meetings and observed practices even though he couldn't play in the game. Russell broke his left ankle in a loss at Oklahoma in November. He had 2,126 yards passing with 20 touchdowns and eight interceptions, and also ran for 506 yards and eight more scores. He was 14-3 as the Bears starter.

SHAWN OAKMAN: Baylor's career sacks leader went undrafted last year after finishing his eligibility in 2015. He was indicted last July on a charge of sexually assaulting a woman. The school was criticized after Oakman was seen on the sideline at the Bears' game against Rice in 2016. Coach Art Briles was removed last year following a report alleging the private Baptist university mishandled complaints of sexual assault, a cloud that could hang over other Bears prospects.

DALVIN COOK: The Florida State running back has both a long list of accomplishments and arrests. He topped 1,000 yards in all three seasons and

ran for 46 career TDs. He's No. 2 on the ACC career charts in yards rushing and is the ACC's all-time leader with 5,399 yards from scrimmage. His run-ins with the law include accusations he punched a woman outside a bar, brandished a firearm and mistreated dogs.

COREY DAVIS: The Western Michigan wide receiver might not work out at the combine in Indianapolis because of ankle issues. Davis could have been a high draft pick had he left after his junior year last season, but he returned for his senior season and had 97 receptions for 1,500 yards and 19 TDs. That gave him 331 catches for 5,278 yards and 52 TDs overall.

MALIK HOOKER: The Ohio State All-American safety will miss the combine after undergoing hernia surgery. He returned three of his seven interceptions for TDs last season when he also made 74 tackles and broke up 11 passes. Ohio State co-defensive coordinator Greg Schiano has compared the 6-foot-2, 205-pounder to former NFL All-Pro safety Ed Reed.

Hornets end losing skid, top Brooklyn, 111-107



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Someone's streak was going to continue Tuesday. The Charlotte Hornets were simply happy it wasn't them as they snapped a seven-game losing streak and held onto a 111-107 victory over the Brooklyn Nets.

Charlotte (24-28) had not won since a Jan. 21 triumph over Brooklyn. The Nets (9-43) dropped their 10th straight, and still have not won since a Jan. 20 victory at New Orleans.

"We needed that game," Charlotte forward Nicolas Batum said. "We're back home. We need to protect our home court and we needed to win that game."

Batum, Kemba Walker and Marco Belinelli each had 17 points to lead the Hornets as seven players scored in double-digits in a game where Charlotte's lead ballooned to as many as 17 points in the second quarter thanks to a quick start.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 22 points and Brook Lopez added 20 for the Nets.

Jeremy Lamb tallied 16 points for the Hornets, while center Frank Kaminsky recorded 12 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

"We dug ourselves a big hole in the first half," Brooklyn coach Kenny Atkinson said. "Again, it was kind of a similar story - turnovers hurt us."

The Nets tallied 18 turnovers, which resulted in 18 Hornets points.

"Turnovers are killing us because it allows them to have too many easy layups," said



Charlotte Hornets' Nicolas Batum (5) drives against Brooklyn Nets' Justin Hamilton (41) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017.

Nets forward Bojan Bogdanovic. "Everybody talks about defense, but I think also we have to start with the offense to limit turnovers."

In Brooklyn's last four games, the Nets are averaging 19.5 turnovers per game.

In this game, the Hornets

pulled away early, using a 10-0 run in the first quarter to take a 14-4 advantage with 5:28 left in that period. In all, Brooklyn scored just 16 first-quarter points compared to Charlotte's 24. Only the Nets' 14-point first quarter on Jan. 21 was a smaller opponent output for

the Hornets this season.

But the Nets continued to attack, scoring nearly as many points in each the third and fourth quarters (35 each) as they scored in the entire first half (37). The Nets sliced Charlotte's lead to 91-87 with 6:11 remaining when

Joe Harris knocked in a 23-foot jumper.

Charlotte, however, countered with quick baskets from Marvin Williams and Belinelli to give the needed cushion.

"Winning in this league is hard," Hornets coach Steve Clifford said. "We struggled to guard them, but we needed a win and that's the most important thing."

Charlotte's All-Star guard Walker caused a small scare when he doubled-over from an elbow to the face by Harris as he drove to the basket with 1:45 left in the first quarter. Walker immediately came out of game and was tended to on the bench by medical staff.

He returned to the contest with 7:29 left in the second quarter.

Rockets 128, Magic 104

In Houston, James Harden had 25 points and 13 assists as the Rockets built a big lead early and held off a late rally to get a win over the Magic.

The Rockets had led by as many as 23 before the Magic begin chipping away at the lead. Serge Ibaka made a turnaround jump shot midway through the fourth quarter to cut Houston's lead to nine points. Harden grabbed a bad pass from Evan Fournier not long after that and dished to Eric Gordon, who finished

with a 3-pointer. Trevor Ariza added a 3-pointer for Houston to extend the lead to 112-97 with about four minutes remaining to put the game away.

Patrick Beverley made seven points after that to help extend the lead to 120-99 with less than two minutes left and send Houston's starters to the bench.

It is Houston's second straight win and the 10th loss in 13 games for the Magic.

Ibaka had 28 points for the Magic and Evan Fournier added 21.

Trail Blazers 114, Mavericks 113

In Dallas, C.J. McCollum scored 32 points, the last two on a runner in the lane with 0.9 seconds left to give the Trail Blazers a win over the Mavericks.

McCollum's shot capped a final minute in which the two teams traded leads six times and Dirk Nowitzki hit two clutch 3-pointers, the second a potential game-winner with 3.9 seconds left. McCollum scored Portland's last seven points.

Damian Lillard added 29 points for the Blazers, who tied their season series with the Mavericks at 2-2 — each team winning twice on the others' home floor.

Harrison Barnes had 26 points and Nowitzki 25 for Dallas.

The two teams, battling for the eighth and final playoff spot, see-sawed through a tense fourth quarter, trading 13-0 runs at one point. Portland led 101-89 before the Mavericks answered the Blazers' run with one of their own.

Neither team led by more than two points after that.

Kings center DeMarcus Cousins receives automatic suspension

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—Kings star DeMarcus Cousins has been handed his automatic one-game suspension for his 16th technical of the season. He also was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Tuesday for his actions during a 109-

106 overtime win against the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

Cousins will sit out Wednesday's home game against Boston. He picked up his 16th technical and second of the game with 1.1 seconds left in a 112-107 loss to Chi-

cago on Monday night.

He also had one Saturday against Golden State that triggered the fine for his gesture and inappropriate words at referee Bill Spooner. Warriors coach Steve Kerr was ejected in the third quarter for his pro-

fanity-laden tirade directed at Spooner, and the reigning NBA Coach of the Year apologized Monday when he received a \$25,000 fine.

From now on, every two technicals Cousins receives will result in another one-game suspension.

Filipino celebrity waiting for his star to rise at Creighton



OMAHA, Neb.

(AP)—In his native country, media call Kobe Paras a "hoops sensation" and "wunderkind," and his family is known as the "Kardashians of the Philippines."

At Creighton, Paras is the 13th man on a team that suits up 14.

While fellow freshman Justin Patton has made a name for himself as a potential NBA lottery pick, Paras is the one who's been asked for a picture not just by a middle-aged woman who followed him into the locker room after a game but by a Cheesecake Factory waitress in Providence, Rhode Island, who recognized him during a team meal. He's the one who had a cheering section of more than a dozen Filipinos he didn't even know be-

hind the bench at a tournament in the Virgin Islands.

The 19-year-old Paras boasts a social media following that includes 461,000 on Instagram and 114,000 on Twitter. A YouTube video of him winning a dunking contest drew more than 1.7 million views. Clips of Paras dunking over LeBron James in the Philippines attracted more than 2.5 million. King James wasn't trying very hard to defend, but still.

Paras has been in the spotlight his whole life. His father, Benjie, was a two-time MVP in the Philippine Basketball Association who's become a popular television actor in the country. His older brother, Andre, also is in showbiz. Paras was named after Kobe Bryant and wears No. 24.

Given his lineage, there's pressure on him. He said he

uses it as motivation.

"It's not an everyday thing that a 19-year-old is representing his country," Paras said. "It's just a blessing to me that God gave me the ability to represent a country at an early age, and the hope (Filipinos) have is pretty overwhelming."

Paras, who left the Philippines at age 15 to play high school basketball in Los Angeles, developed into a three-star recruit who originally signed with UCLA. He enrolled in the summer, but an academic issue led to his leaving and he wound up at Creighton. Websites that cover Creighton have seen a wave of traffic from the Philippines this season. At home, media report Creighton results and note when Paras doesn't play, which is the norm.

"Basketball fans see him as having the best chance to play in the NBA since he is already playing in an NCAA Division I school," Reuben Terrado, a reporter for the sports website Spin.ph, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "Female fans adore him because of his good looks."

The 6-foot-6 shooting guard has appeared in 11 of the 24 games this season for the 23rd-ranked Bluejays. He is averaging 5.7 minutes and 1.5 points. Only walk-on Jordan Scurry, his best friend on the team, has played less. The two liven up the end of the bench with their creative celebrations of teammates' outstanding plays.

"Even though I'm not playing, I've been eyeing the game and seeing it," Paras said. "College and high school are way different. The pace is way faster, more

physical. I'm learning a lot."

Paras has been wrapped in a cocoon by his former high school and club coach, William Middlebrooks, whose organization handles interview requests for Paras. Interviews are conducted with his brand manager on the phone line and occasionally offering comments or expanding on Paras' responses.

"People have different agendas, and those agendas aren't always in the best interests of the kids," said Middlebrooks, whose program includes high school, prep and travel teams.

In Omaha, Paras is able to maintain a relatively low profile. Scurry said he didn't know about his buddy's fame in the Philippines until he looked up some of his basketball highlights last July.

Because Paras is likable and humble, teammates don't give him much grief for being a matinee idol, Scurry said. On

campus, Paras is known as much for his fashion as he is for basketball. Scurry called Paras' style a cross between "L.A. and the Philippines," while Paras described it as a mix of Kanye West, Russell Westbrook and Chris Brown.

Paras also likes to cook. Beef stew is one of his specialties, and Scurry said Paras makes a mean red sauce to go over pasta. Scurry said Paras told him he might become a chef "if this whole basketball thing doesn't work out."

Whether it's basketball, fashion, cooking or any other endeavor, Paras refers to each as part of his "brand."

"My name isn't just Kobe Paras. Everything I do is part of Kobe Paras, Incorporated," Paras said.

Mind you, there is no Kobe Paras Inc. right now.

"There probably is going to be one when I graduate," he said.

TanHoldings keeps streak, crushes Docomo

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TanHoldings extended its winning run after whipping Docomo, 98-78, in the second game in the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The victory was the fourth in as many games for TanHoldings, which kept the lead in Pool A, while Docomo

absorbed its third straight after winning its debut against Triple J early last month.

Paul Quizon, Douglas Schmidt, and Lorio Pagarao made life difficult for Docomo defenders as all three scored 20-plus points for the unbeaten TanHoldings. Quizon had a game-high 26 points, while Schmidt and Pagarao recorded 25 and 22 markers, respectively.

Quizon's hot hands made up for the absence of another TanHoldings gunner Matt

Duenas. Quizon nailed his team's first basket off a layup and with Schmidt and Pagarao picking up the scoring as the game progressed, TanHoldings managed to take early control of the match, leading by 12 by the end of the first period, 26-14.

Schmidt had 9 points in the



ROSELYN B. MONROY

TanHoldings' Paul Quizon, left, escapes with a fastbreak layup in the opening minute of their game against Docomo in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

opening canto and was still unstoppable in the second, as he added 9 more, while Dindo Pablo knocked in three triples, allowing TanHoldings to pull away at the break, 59-32. Pagarao added 6 markers in that second-quarter surge and then teamed up with Quizon in the final half to finish off the hapless Docomo crew. Quizon and Pagarao scored all but one of TanHoldings' points in the fourth quarter with the former, tallying 12 points and the latter contributing 6. Joseph Villamena made his lone marker in the final canto.

Friday Game

TanHoldings 98 – Quizon 26, Schmidt 25, Pagarao 22, Pablo 14, Esdreton 6, Nonato 4, E. Duenas 2, Villamena 1.

Docomo 78 – Griffin 24, Manibusan 16, Rebauliman 12, Hayes 8, Sablan, 8, Kaipat 5, Alvarez 5, Treat Mendiola 4, White 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-14, 59-32, 79-49, 98-78.

Baseball owners look at rule changes to speed up game



P A L M
B E A C H,
Fla. (AP)—

For those rooting for baseball to speed up the game, Commissioner Rob Manfred says: have patience.

Owners and players ratified a new collective bargaining agreement in December, but they're still negotiating innovations designed to improve the pace of play. Owners discussed the issue during two days of meetings that concluded Friday.

"We did review some rule changes largely related to pace of game that are being discussed with the players' association," Manfred said. "More to follow when those negotiations are complete."

Manfred has pushed for faster games since he became commissioner two years ago. But the average time of a nine-inning game last season was 3 hours, a 4-minute increase

over 2015. One playoff game took more than 4½ hours.

The new CBA, which extends labor peace to 26 years through 2021, addresses issues such as smokeless tobacco and World Series home-field advantage but not on-field rules.

"Given the really serious big economic issues on the table, I think it's unrealistic to think that you're going to get an agreement (regarding pace of play) when you're doing the overall agreement," Manfred said. "As is the usual course in the offseason, we're turning to the playing rule issues now."

Management would like to tighten restrictions on trips to the mound and introduce a pitch clock, which has been used in Triple-A and Double-A the past two seasons. Players generally have resisted such changes, and many say there's no problem with the length of games.

Manfred disagrees.

"Pace of play is an issue that 'we' need to be focused on," he said. "The 'we' there is players, owners, umpires, everyone who is invested in this game."

"I don't think there's a magic bullet that is going to come one year to be the solution to pace of play. It's going to be an ongoing effort to make sure our game moves along in a way that is most attractive to our fans."

Miami Marlins president David Samson said Major League Baseball is aware that despite much talk about the need to speed up games in recent years, the problem has gotten worse.

"Pace of game is critical," Samson said. "We know that from our fans and TV partners. We have to recognize the reality of life today, which is that attention spans are going down and choices are going up. Whatever business you're in, you have to adjust."

GSM

From Page 28

two-run triple in his first trip at the plate and at two-run single in his second. Marco Peter, John Diaz, and Mark Flores added two RBIs each, while Ben Hocog had one RBI.

Hocog was also the GSM Masters player that went at-bat for the third time at the top of the fourth inning with the bases loaded. His grounder to shortstop, however, was picked up by Ota Nobuyuki, who threw the ball to Darwin Masaharu at first base and the latter tagged Hocog out to end the agonizing inning for Sai Sei. Masaharu earlier at the bottom of the fourth pitched for his team after starter Kuich Damian gave up five earned runs, however the former could not also stop the bleeding for Sai Sei and the latter was forced to retake the mound late in that long period.

Now facing a double-digit deficit, Sai Sei was pressed to mount a comeback, which started in the sixth inning after the GSM Masters got one more run in the fifth for a 23-7 advantage. Taylor Germance

anchored Sai Sei's rally with his two-run double and his team's four other runs were also earned ones with three of them could be half credited to pinch runner Nizer Masayos, who volunteered to round the bases.

With his successes, Masayos was even called by Sai Sei fans as the team's lucky charm in that inning. The rightfielder was poised to reach home for the fourth time as he was on third base, but was denied after a big defensive stop from Mark Flores. Flores recovered a fumble from shortstop Walter Macaranas, who was about to pick up a grounder from Justin Reyes. The ball, however, bounced up high and off Macaranas' hand, but fortunately Flores was near the play and caught the ball, stepped back to second base and tagged Reyes out to wrap up the top of the sixth.

At the bottom of the sixth, the GSM Masters gained more cushion, adding three runs off Peter's two-run single and Mark Flores' RBI single.

With its season on the line, Sai Sei, which moved to the finals after stunning pennant

champions BSI Aces in the semis last week, needed at least 13 runs at the top of the seventh and last inning to continue the game. The seemingly insurmountable task hit a snag right from the get-go as lead-off batter Germance flied out at centerfield. Damien was second at bat and walked, but was later beaten to second, while Masaharu moved to first on a fielder's choice and advanced to second after a wild pitch from closer Ton Flores.

Now one out away from closing the game and clinching the title, the GSM Masters nearly got the third out in the next play when designated hitter Otes Olkeriil's grounder to shortstop was picked up by Macaranas, who threw the ball to Peter at first base. Peter leapt for the catch and then turned to tag out Olkeriil, but the umpire called the latter safe, keeping Sai Sei's hopes alive, but not for long. Sai Sei's impending loss in the finals came in the ensuing play when Salalila's grounder in between first and second base was fielded by Mark Flores, who then tossed the ball to Peter for the third out.

TRACK

From Page 28

which will have three layers. After the base, the contractor will have the seal layer, which involves the pouring of specialized glue and grinding (drying the surface). The third is the surface layer and this is where rubber particles bound with latex or polyurethane are poured. The layering process will take months, depending on the weather, while cleaning is required after the materials have been spread out.

VIBES

From Page 28

who stole the win despite falling behind by as much as 12 points in the first half. Santos, who was fouled by Aiferson Atan on his way for a fast-break layup off a pitch from Douglas Schmidt, missed his first charity, but knocked in the second one to give Vibes the lead, down to the last 0.6 of a second of the game.

The Ol'Aces 1 sued for time, hoping for a miracle, but that did not happen as it turned the ball over when the match resumed.

It was a sorry loss for the Ol'Aces 1 as it once led by twin-digits in the first half, 29-17. Nak Nakashima, Sidney Quan, and Dave Camacho had 6 points apiece in the Ol'Aces 1's good start, while four of their teammates also made it to the board.

Vibes, on the other hand, trailed as Schmidt was a marked man in the first half with two and sometime three Ol'Aces players ganging

\$1,200 assistance for Mini Games

Meanwhile, NMSA has decided to provide financial assistance (\$1,200 each) to athletes and officials participating in the Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu this December.

NMSA president Michael White said the amount was agreed upon by NMSA board to help defray the cost of the CNMI's delegates to the quadrennial competition. The Commonwealth will only participate in rugby sevens and athletics contests in the Mini

Games and participation costs, including airfare and accommodations, are estimated between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

White added that sports federations sending athletes to Vanuatu must provide NMSA with updates (written report) about their training, itinerary, and other information related to their participation in the Mini Games, beginning next month.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	18	.647	—
Toronto	32	21	.604	2
New York	22	31	.415	12
Philadelphia	18	33	.353	15
Brooklyn	9	43	.173	24½

Southeast Division

Washington	30	21	.588	—
Atlanta	30	22	.577	½
Charlotte	24	28	.462	6½
Miami	22	30	.423	8½
Orlando	20	34	.370	11½

Central Division

Cleveland	35	15	.700	—
Indiana	29	22	.569	6½
Chicago	26	26	.500	10
Detroit	24	28	.462	12
Milwaukee	22	28	.440	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	39	12	.765	—
Houston	38	17	.691	3
Memphis	32	22	.593	8½
New Orleans	20	32	.385	19½
Dallas	20	32	.385	19½

Northwest Division

Utah	33	19	.635	—
Oklahoma City	30	23	.566	3½
Denver	23	28	.451	9½
Portland	23	30	.434	10½
Minnesota	19	33	.365	14

Pacific Division

Golden State	43	8	.843	—
L.A. Clippers	31	21	.596	12½
Sacramento	20	32	.385	23½
L.A. Lakers	18	36	.333	26½
Phoenix	16	36	.308	27½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Shirley's Coffee Shop player, third left, battles two QQ Rent A Car player for the loose ball during their women's division game in the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Fiesta Resort & Spa's Krizel Tuazon unloads a point-blank shot against IT&E's Karleen Reyes.



A Gen Cup player protects the ball from a Rollers 2 defender during their boys U16 division match.



The Ol'Aces 1's Andrew Palino drives baseline against Rollers 1's Angelo Factor.



The Rollers 1's A.J. Hudkins, right, tries to take the ball away from a Rollers 2 player in their boys U16 tiff.



The Rollers 2's Sam Darag pulls up for a jumper against two Ol'Aces 1 defenders.



CTSI's Madeleine Alegre, right, beats a QQ Rent A Car player to the ball.



The Sonics' Jester Kintaro, right, drives against the Ol'Aces 2's Coby Santos.



Patriots take victory lap, parade Boston for Super Bowl win

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Hornets end losing skid, top Brooklyn, 111-107

PAGE 25



28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The GSM Masters and their sponsor Mark Kaori Sablan flash the No.1 sign after topping the 2016 Masters Baseball League following their convincing 26-13 victory over Sai Sei in their title match last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

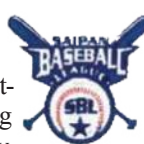
GSM Masters bags championship

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The GSM Masters lived up to its name after ruling the 2016 Masters Baseball League following its convincing 26-13 victory over Sai Sei in their title match last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The second-seeded GSM Masters collected 13 runs in the pivotal bottom of the fourth inning and survived Sai Sei's rally at the top of the sixth to prevail in the winner-take-all finale.

The bottom of the fourth inning began with the GSM Masters ahead by only 2 runs, 9-7, but it ended with the eventual champions threatening to



pull away, 22-7. All of the GSM Masters' top of the order reached home for the first nine runs and four scored, too on their second at bat, while one batted three times.

John Terlaje led the break-away, going 2-for-2 at bat and tallying four RBIs. He had a

See GSM on Page 26

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility continues despite the uncooperative weather the island has been experi-

Track resurfacing moving forward

encing this month.

Tony Rogolifoi, executive director of Northern Marianas Sports Association, which coordinates the project with con-

tractor Tang's Corp., said that a subcontractor has started the asphalt work at the facility this week.

"Heavy equipment from

Hawaiian Rock has been here since Monday and I believe they will be in charge of laying out the asphalt along the track oval," said Rogolifoi in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Tuesday.

"As for the materials that we will be used to resurface the track, they are on the way and could be here by the end of this month. I am trying to contact the contractor to get more updates about the project, but he has yet to return my calls. However, I am confident they will get the job done on time," Rogolifoi added.

Tang's Corp. has 150 days to complete the project after the issuance of the notice to proceed, which was released last Nov. 15, 2016.

The asphalt is the first (base) layer of the track,

See TRACK on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A road grader moves around the track oval at the Oleai Sports Complex last Monday.

Vibes noses out Ol'Aces 1 in semis



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vibes' Matt Mancao looks to pass the ball to his teammate as he is up against the defense of the Ol'Aces 1's Joshua Andrew, left, and Andrew Palino during the first half of their semis game in the boys U25 division of the TanHoldings holiday caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

game in the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The battle for the first finals berth in the boys U25 division went down-to-the-wire with Vibes escaping with a 49-48 win against the Ol'Aces 1 in their semis



Jesse Santos made the dagger for Vibes,

See VIBES on Page 26